



ANCIENT ORIGINS[®]

HISTORY | MYSTERY | SCIENCE

MAGAZINE

BORN TO RULE

**Genghis Khan,
Attila, First Emperor**

**Mad, Bad
& Dangerous**

**Nefertiti,
The Lost Queen**

**PLUS
The All-Seeing
Eye, Watching
Us Through
History**

**Did History Get
the Story Wrong?**

**Outrageous Emperors
and Mad Monarchs**

**Damned to
Non-Existence?**

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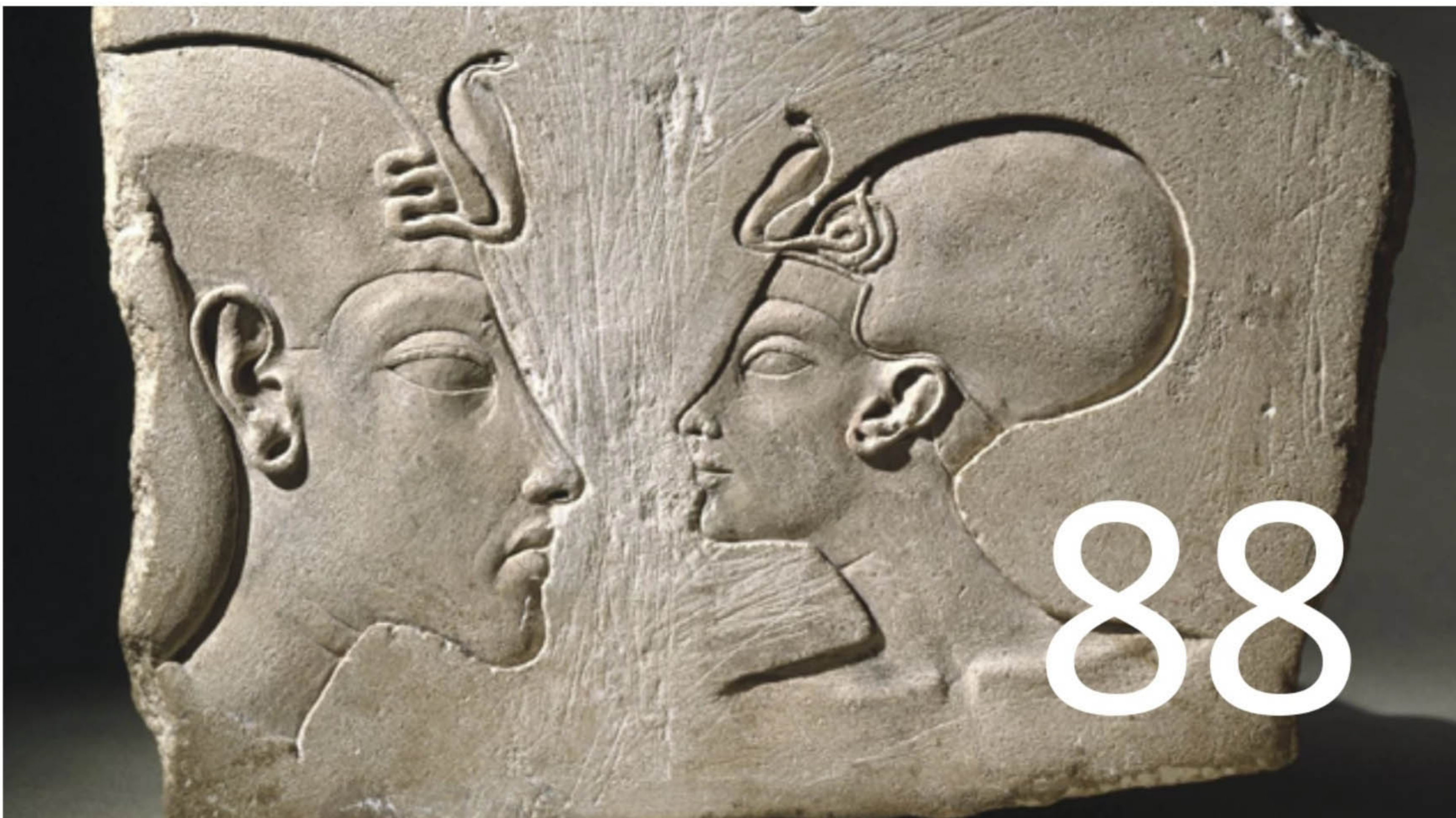
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HOW do you keep a king humble when they rule one of the most powerful kingdoms of their era? Once a year, you strip them of their regalia, force them to their knees and slap them hard in the face. At least, that was the tradition in Mesopotamia 5,000 years ago! Times have certainly changed, though many would say our modern-day politicians could do with a good dose of Mesopotamian humbling!

Today, our leaders rarely maintain absolute, unquestioned power; prime ministers, presidents, and even dictators are often 'moderated' to some degree. This was not always the case in the ancient world—monarchs, pharaohs, warlords, conquerors, and tyrants possessed immense power—for better or for worse. A strong ruler, like Roman Emperor Augustus, could advance a nation and bring it to the forefront of culture and technology. An unrestrained emperor, like Nero or Ivan the Terrible, could cause the downfall of some of the greatest empires and civilizations of their time.



Many would say our modern-day politicians could do with a good dose of Mesopotamian humbling! ”

In this issue, we shine a spotlight on some of the most famous and infamous rulers in history; we take an eye-opening look at outrageous emperors and mad monarchs; we examine rulers who were almost lost to history through the 'punishment of non-existence'; and we question the long-accepted historical narrative – are Genghis Khan, Attila the Hun, and the First Emperor of China really deserving of their 'bad boy' image?

From the strong and courageous to the brutal and ruthless, the world has been forever changed by powerful rulers throughout time. ■

JOANNA GILLAN
Chief Editor, Ancient Origins Magazine

EXPERTS IN THIS ISSUE...



DAVID G JONES

David G. Jones B.A., M.A. is a retired government executive, a university teacher, and administrator. Among other achievements, he is a Fellow of the University of King's College and was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal. He also holds an officer's commission in the Canadian Army.



SALVA RUANO

Salva Ruano is an artist and history enthusiast who combines his passion for Roman history with his talent for hyper-realistic sculpture to bring to life the faces of Roman rulers and emperors.

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|| By Micki Pistorius

Ancient Skeleton Rewrites History

A 9,900-year old female skeleton discovered in the Chan Hol cave, in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula, revealed this region was inhabited by at least two different groups of early Mesoamerican settlers. Ten human skeletons were discovered in the submerged Yucatán Peninsula caves, which sheltered America's first settlers before filling with water. Previously, divers discovered the skeletal remains of a girl in Hoyo Negro cave dating to 10,976 years ago and, during the 2000s, another skeleton dated to 11,570 years ago was found in the Naharon cave.

Dr. Wolfgang Stinnesbeck (Heidelberg University) said bones submerged in water for thousands of years lose their collagen, complicating accurate carbon dating, therefore uranium-thorium isotope samples were initially taken from a calcite crust that had formed on the skeleton's finger bones. Since then, scientists dated charcoal from fire pits dating to about 9,100 and 7,900 years ago. This proves that humans occupied the Chan Hol cave for at least 1,200 years during the Holocene, before rising global sea levels eventually flooded them. A comparative analysis of over 400 ancient skulls found across the Americas also indicates two different skull patterns, proving two physically distinct human groups lived concurrently in this region as the Pleistocene gave way to the Holocene.



Chan Hol, part of the Toh ha cave system, is a cenote and submerged cave system in Quintana Roo, Mexico



An old wooden well

Stone Age Well is World's Oldest Wooden Structure

The oldest manmade timber construction, a well dating from the Stone Age, has been excavated in Ostrov, Czech Republic. Since the majority of structures were made of wood in ancient times, most have decayed and are lost to history.

Archaeologists extracted the wooden lined walls from a well, similar to a box and in a remarkable condition. It measures 2.5 feet by 2.5 feet and 10 inches in height. The grooved corner posts with inserted planks indicate sophisticated technical skills with advanced tools. Using dendrochronologically dating techniques, Jaroslav Peška

(Archaeological Center) confirmed the “tree trunks for the wood were felled in the years 5255 and 5256 BC.” The Journal of Archaeological Science, reports that “the Czech oak TRW chronology has been significantly extended back to 5481 BC.”

Researchers now believe that they have a clear picture of the construction of the item from the time its wood was felled to the advanced carpentry skills that were used to make it. The ability to construct such an item indicates some level of labor specialization and even a sophisticated social organization.



The excavated hoard undergoing cleaning and investigation. Jewellery can be seen protruding from the mass of coins

2000-Year-Old Celtic Coin Hoard Sets World Record

Eight years after discovering the Grouville Hoard - 69,347 Roman and Celtic coins and jewelry - metal detectorists Reg Mead and Richard Miles have finally seen their cache acknowledged as a Guinness World Record. Their 2012-find trumps the previous record-holding discovery of 54,951 Iron Age coins unearthed in Wiltshire in 1978.

After searching for 30 years, Mead

and Miles finally discovered a massive corroded lump of coins buried three feet beneath a hedge. The coins had probably been buried by the Curiosolite tribe fleeing the Romans around 50 to 60 BC. A team from the Jersey Heritage and Guernsey Museum took five years to extract almost 70,000 coins from a clay block weighing almost a ton.

The Grouville Hoard is on display

at La Hougue Bie Museum. Valued at £10 million, Mead and Miles will have to wait on the outcome of whether their cache is officially declared treasure. The Treasure Act of 1996 determines that items declared as ‘treasure’ must be offered for sale to a museum at a price established by the British Museum’s Treasure Valuation Committee. A reward is offered to the finders and any other associated parties. ■





HOLI!!

The Festival of Colors

|| By Wu Mingren

From March 9 to 10, Hindus across South Asia will celebrate their most colorful festival – Holi. Rooted in Hindu mythology, Holi is an ancient Indian spring festival that welcomes the new season and honors the triumph of good over evil.

While it is best known today for its party atmosphere, the celebration is embedded with religious significance. Holi is referenced in the Vedas, Puranas, and a stone inscription from 300 BC found at Ramgarh. There are also representations of the celebration in sculptures and murals on old temple walls; a temple at Hampi has a 16th-century panel depicting a prince and princess about to be drenched in colored water.

While Holi was originally celebrated in North India, the fun, vibrancy, unity, and joy

associated with the festival has spread to non-Hindus and various communities around the world.

The popularity of Holi today may be understood when its other name, the ‘Festival of Colors’, is considered. One of the features of Holi is the use of colored powders, called *gulal*, and colored water, which is splashed, sprayed and poured over festivalgoers.

Several days before the celebration itself, markets fill with colored powders of every hue. Many still make the powders the traditional way, using turmeric and flowers dried in the sun and ground to a fine dust. The vibrant pigments of the perfumed powder signify the joy of the arrival of spring and the variety of colors blooming in nature.

The coloring of friends and strangers with powder and water is particularly enjoyed by children, but adults also participate enthusiastically in the color fight that begins on the morning of the festival. By the end, most people are walking rainbows of color.

During this celebration, social barriers are broken down, and for a short period of time at least, men and women, young and old, rich and poor, are seen as equal. In Mughal India, Holi was celebrated with such fervor that people of all castes were permitted to throw color on the Emperor. Nonetheless, there are still people today who are not comfortable with this equality, and the saying '*Buranamano, Holi hai!*' ('Don't be offended, it's Holi!') is meant explicitly for them.

THANK KRISHNA AND RADHA FOR THE COLORS

Throwing colored powders during Holi can be traced back to a legend of Krishna, an avatar of Vishnu. In the story, Krishna felt embarrassed by his dark blue skin and was afraid that the woman he loved, a *gopi*, (meaning cow-herd girl), named Radha would not accept him. The Hindu deity's mother told him to color Radha's face a different color, whichever color he wanted. Krishna was delighted to apply color on Radha and the other gopis and this prank later became a part of the Holi celebration. Today, throwing gulal during Holi celebrates the immortal love of Krishna and Radha.

Colorful Symbolism



Red is love, matrimony and fertility

Blue is the color of the Hindu god, Lord Krishna



Yellow represents the popular spice turmeric

Green is renewal of nature and new beginnings



In Mughal India, Holi was celebrated with such fervor that people of all castes were permitted to throw color on the Emperor



Blue-skinned Krishna colored his lover's face





Don't be offended!
It's Holi!



THE LEGEND OF THE DEMON KING

The Holi festival was originally celebrated within a Hindu context and is still observed on the day after the last full moon of Phalguna, the last month of the Hindu calendar (between late February and early March).

One legend associated with the festival is that of Prahlad and Hiranyakshyap. According to this legend, there was once a powerful demon king by the name of Hiranyakshyap. This demon king resided in Multan and was virtually indestructible, due to a favor granted to him by Brahma.

Hiranyakshyap grew arrogant, considered himself a god, and demanded everyone worship him. His son, Prahlad, however, was a devotee of Vishnu and refused to worship his father. As a result, Hiranyakshyap asked his sister, the demoness Holika (it is from her name that we get the word 'Holi'), for her help to get rid of Prahlad. As Holika had received a boon that made her immune to fire, she went into a pyre with Prahlad on her lap, hoping that her nephew would be burnt alive. Prahlad's devotion to Vishnu, however, saved him, and the demoness was burnt to death instead.

This story is one of the numerous legends associated with the *Holika Dahan* ('The Burning of Dahan'), a practice that takes place on the eve of Holi and is also known as the *Chhoti Holi* ('Small Holi.') During the Holika Dahan, bonfires are lit to commemorate the deliverance of Prahlad from his evil father and aunt. In many parts of India, an effigy of Holika is also burned on the fire. Thus, the Holika Dahan is a reminder that good always triumphs over evil. ■

The Making of Color



RED/ORANGE – Flowers of palash or tesu trees, red sandalwood, dried hibiscus flowers, radish, pomegranate and saffron are alternate sources for shades of orange and red gulal.



GREEN – Dried leaves of the gulmohur tree and leaves of spring crops and herbs are used to make green pigment.



YELLOW – Turmeric powder is the most popular way to make yellow pigment. Alternate sources include bael fruit, species of chrysanthemums and species of marigold.



BLUE – Indigo plant, berries, purple grapes, blue hibiscus, and jacaranda flowers are traditional sources of blue gulal.



PURPLE – Beetroot is boiled in water to prepare purple-colored water for Holi.



The demoness tries to burn her nephew alive.
Chennakesava Temple



Ingo Mehling/CC BY SA 3.0

Left: Holi festival being enjoyed by a crowd
in Krishna Temple of Uttar Pradesh,India

Above: Holi Bonfire in front of Jagdish Temple

The Blue City

The city of Chefchaouen is one of Morocco's most picturesque destinations. Nestled in spectacular mountain scenery and with a 500-year-old fortress at its center, it is most famous for its blue hue, which covers the houses, mosques, public squares and government buildings throughout the city. The distinctive color dates back to the 15th century, when Jewish refugees fleeing the Spanish Inquisition settled in the city, bringing with them the custom of painting the buildings blue, symbolizing the sky and heaven. Locals maintain that fewer mosquitoes were present in the Jewish quarter and, believing the blue color was the reason, they painted the rest of the city blue. Interest from tourists may largely account for the reason why, in the last few decades, everything from lamp posts to trash cans have been included in the city's color scheme!

Chefchaouen, Morocco.
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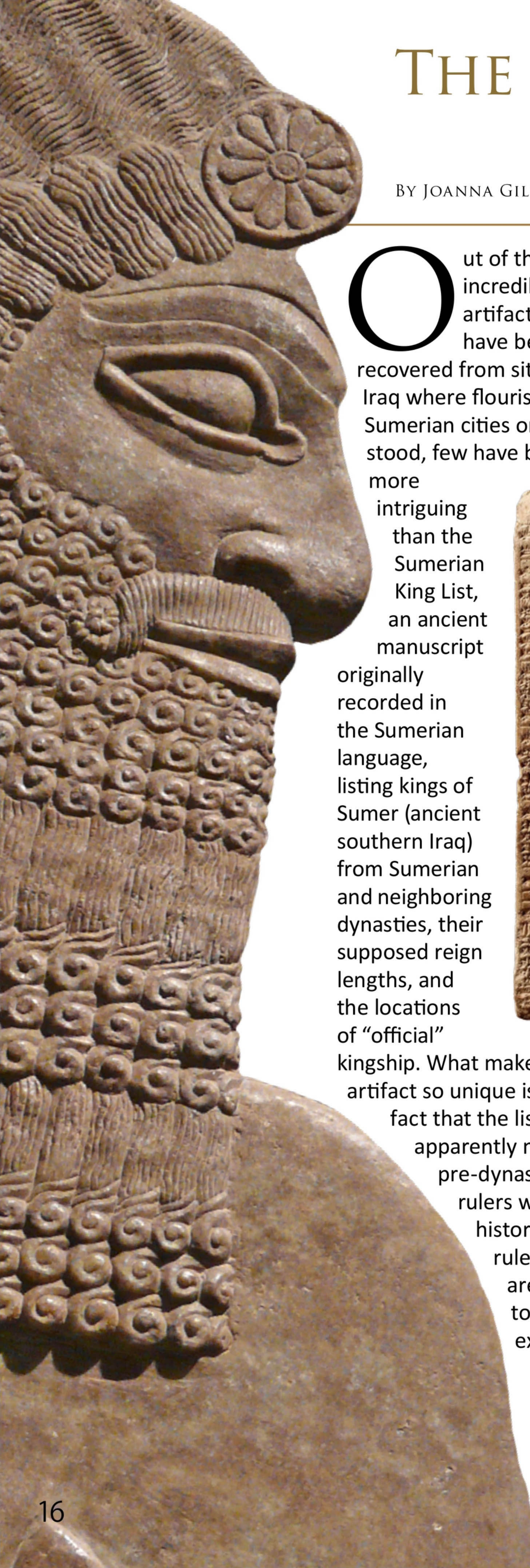




THE SUMERIAN KING LIST

WHERE MYTHOLOGY MEETS HISTORY

BY JOANNA GILLAN



Out of the many incredible artifacts that have been recovered from sites in Iraq where flourishing Sumerian cities once stood, few have been more intriguing than the Sumerian King List, an ancient manuscript originally recorded in the Sumerian language, listing kings of Sumer (ancient southern Iraq) from Sumerian and neighboring dynasties, their supposed reign lengths, and the locations of “official” kingship. What makes this artifact so unique is the fact that the list blends apparently mythical pre-dynastic rulers with historical rulers who are known to have existed.

The first fragment of this rare and unique text, a 4,000-year-old cuneiform tablet, was found in the early 1900s by German-American scholar Hermann Hilprecht at the site of ancient Nippur and published in 1906. Since Hilprecht’s discovery, at least 18 other exemplars of the king’s list have been found, most of them dating from the second half of the Isin dynasty (c.

2017-1794 BC). No two of these documents are identical. However, there is enough common material in all versions of the list to make it clear that they are derived from a single, “ideal” account of Sumerian history.

Among all the examples of the Sumerian King List, the Weld-Blundell prism in the Ashmolean Museum cuneiform collection in Oxford represents the most extensive version, as well as the most complete copy of the King List. The eight-inch-high prism contains four sides with two columns on each side. It is believed that it originally had a wooden spindle going through its center so that it could be rotated and read on all four sides. It lists rulers from the antediluvian (“before the flood”) dynasties to the 14th ruler of the Isin dynasty (ca. 1763–1753 BC).

The Sumerian King List begins with the very origin of kingship, which is seen as a divine institution. It lists the names of eight kings with a total of 241,200 years from the time when “kingship had descended from heaven” to the time when “the Flood” swept over the land. After the Flood, various city-states and their dynasties of kings are recorded as gaining power over each other.

The list is of immense value because it reflects very old traditions while at the same time providing an important chronological framework relating to the different periods of kingship in Sumer. It also demonstrates remarkable parallels to accounts in Genesis. ■





FABULOUS CREATURES

THE BAOBHAN SITH



Charles Christian is a barrister and Reuters correspondent turned writer, award-winning tech journalist, radio presenter, podcaster, blogger, storyteller, and sometime werewolf-hunter who presents a weekly podcast: the Weird Tales Radio Show

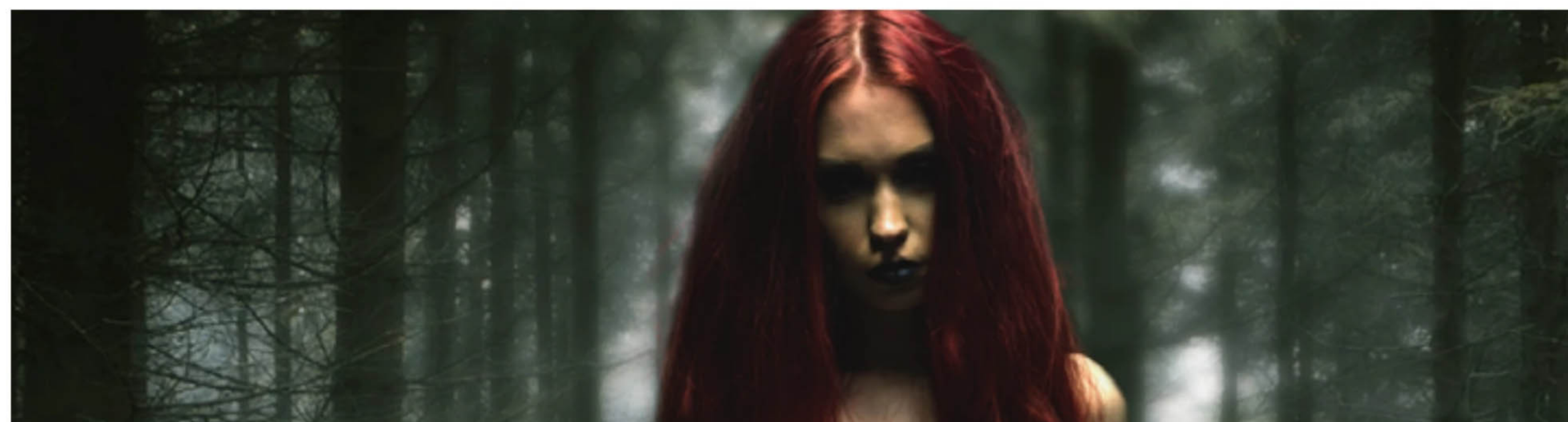
CHARLES CHRISTIAN

Meet the *Baobhan Sith* (pronounced *bar van shee*), a demonic femme fatale of the Scottish Highlands. Although the name shares the same Gaelic root as banshee, these creatures – always women, always beautiful, and usually

with long red hair – are a cross between a vampire and a succubus. Folktales suggest they are a very dangerous form of night-walking elemental who prey upon lonely men, leaving them dead and drained of their blood before they, the baobhan sith, vanish with the dawn.

All accounts of the creature share one feature in common: while out on a hunting or cattle droving trip and camped for the night, one or more of the lonely men says he wishes his wife or sweetheart could be with him to keep him company that night. Soon after, a group of beautiful and accommodating young women conveniently appear at the campsite. Typically they will all be wearing long green dresses

that trail along the ground. Why? To disguise the fact the they are not human and instead of feet, their legs end in the cloven hooves of a deer. In one account, the sole survivor of a group of four men said that as he played the fiddle, while his companions



danced with the women, he noticed drops of blood falling from the men. He fled the hut they'd been in and spent the rest of the night hidden among the hunting party's horses, which were tethered outside. When morning came, the baobhan sith disappeared and the fiddler found his companions dead and their bodies sucked dry of blood. How did he live to tell the tale? Because although one of the baobhan sith saw him leave and chased after him, she could not attack him because he was surrounded by the horses which had been shod with iron shoes. It is a common theme in folklore that many forms of maleficent elemental, including fairies, are repelled by iron – in the same way, silver is said to offer protection against vampires and werewolves. This, incidentally, is one of the

reasons why people still nail a horseshoe over a front door – not just to bring good luck but also to protect against evil.

The baobhan sith therefore provide a reminder to feckless men that you should always

be careful what you wish for. In fact, there is a traditional Scottish belief, still in circulation in the early years of the 20th century, that if you make a wish at night without also invoking God's protection, then that wish will be granted in a terrible manner.

What else can I tell you about the baobhan sith? It is said they can shape-shift into hooded crows (also known as Scotch crows), so a loud cawing and a flapping of bird wings may announce the arrival or departure of a flock of predatory baobhan sith. Oh yes, and don't be so gullible. If a beautiful young woman in a long green frock suddenly arrives at your campsite in a forest in the middle of the night and offers to dance with you, at least stop to ask yourself "is this plausible?" before accepting her offer! ■

Spotlight



ANCIENT RULERS



Guanche Kings, the statues of the nine
aboriginal kings, Tenerife island, Canary, Spain

AUGUSTUS

FAMOUS FACES



THE MAN WHO MAKES EMPERORS

INTERVIEW WITH SALVA RUANO

BY JOANNA GILLAN

When we think of the emperors of Rome, we tend to remember their idealized images represented in marble busts on display in museums throughout the world. But one Spanish artist, Salva Ruano, a master of hyper-realistic sculpture, brings some of the most famous rulers— Julius Caesar, Nero, Augustus, and Caligula – to life, as if they were among us.

Ruano, and his Césares de Roma project, aims to bring the past to life with visceral realism, creating life-like versions of classical Roman sculptures and offering a vision of an era that until now we could only imagine.

What inspired you to choose Roman rulers and emperors as the subject matter of your art?

I've always been fascinated by ancient Rome. To understand much of the functioning of the classical Roman world, for me, Roman Emperors have always been key figures as a simple and interesting starting point.

As a child, I was passionate about painting and sculpture, as well as classical roman history, which awakened in me a great curiosity about ancient Rome. After some time, I began to read classical literature and I constantly imagined what the appearance of those Roman rulers and emperors might be.



ARTIST SALVA RUANO





A few years ago, I discovered the art of hyper-realistic sculptures and instantly decided to make my childhood fantasy come true. I am self-taught and have learned the process little-by-little and although I continue to improve my techniques, and despite being still far from my goal, I have been able to combine my two greatest passions: art and classical Roman history.

What historical resources do you use to piece together what these rulers really looked like?

Suetonius, Plutarch, Cicero, Joannis Malalas, Philo, Seneca, Pliny, and all the ancient authors who wrote or made any mention of the emperors' image to other rulers, including hair, eyes, and skin.

However, their descriptions sometimes go beyond the ridiculous with the intention of slandering the emperor, Some historical accounts are not only limited to simple descriptions. At the end of the Gaul war, and during the celebration of the Triumph in honor of it, the soldiers of Julius Caesar sang the chant of: "Citizens, keep an eye on your wives, we're bringing back the bald adulterer. He's stashed away the gold in Gaul that you loaned him here in Rome."

Caesar, in the mouth of Roman historian Suetonius, was thorough in caring for

his physical appearance, something that Roman statesman Cicero hinted rhetorically at the senators: - "What did you expect of that young man who combs his hair with the tips of his fingers?".

"What did you expect of that young man who combs his hair with the tips of his fingers?"

The denarii [silver coin] of the Roman dictator show the image of Caesar with little hair, combed forward, and an aged face in addition to a neck full of folds and a detached

Platysma muscle. This helps to form a clearer idea of his face, far from the idealization of his images in the imperial period.



The denarii
[silver coin]
of the Roman
dictator show
the image
of Caesar
with little
hair, combed
forward, and
an aged face
in addition
to a neck full
of folds and
a detached
Platysma
muscle



JULIUS CAESAR





CALIGULA

Caligula is one of the most troubled emperors when it comes to recreating because there is nothing written about the color of his hair or his eyes. Suetonius mentions only that he bore a golden beard. However, he gave this fact when speaking about his disguises, like that of the god Jupiter, but that beard could have been simply artificial. We can only conjecture, so I opted for the most prudent option.

As for Nero, Suetonius mentions the blonde color of Nero's hair, but he also narrates an interesting story about the lineage of Nero

that, despite giving an improbable divine origin, we cannot leave aside. It recalls his ancestors and affirms that all men from the paternal side of the family, with the cognomen [an extra name given to an ancient Roman citizen] "Ahenobarbus" (Copper beard), carried a beard with a copper-like color and had red hair. This description, together with the large number of freckles that the emperor had, allows me to recreate another possible image of his appearance.

NERO



Photos © Salva Ruano







What process do you follow to create the sculptures?

Once the original sculpture from a museum has been chosen, I proceed to obtain an exact 3D printed copy, after previously scanning the piece. In plasticine, with the bust of the emperor, a copy is made and is then molded, adding expression, wrinkles, moles and skin pores. The eyes are adjusted, and the head is prepared, while maintaining homogeneous proportions.

Having finished with the plasticine process, a mold is made of the piece to then obtain the bust in a special

What are the challenges of producing hyper-realistic sculptures?

I value manual work a lot, making art with materials that we can touch, model, paint and physically see. Recreations can be done in digital format and in some cases they can be as impressive as the architectural recreations of palaces and monuments of ancient Rome. However, I also like to materialize the idea, like the neo-classicist painters of the late 18th century, Lawrence Alma-Tadema or Henryk Siemiradzki – with paint on canvas they made impressive

do what I love. But everyone perceives my idea, which is to see the emperors and leaders of classical Rome from a more real and human point of view, away from the lifeless marble statues.

Who was your favorite ruler to create?

I think Caligula is the character that has surprised me the most so far. The classical sources not only attack and defame their political acts or personal actions, they also disfigure their face to impose greater repulsion. However, this reconstruction shows, in my opinion, the reality: an inexperienced young man in Roman politics, charged with absolute power, fearful and distrustful. How would we react if we knew that part of the Senate, Praetorians, and our own blood sisters and relatives are willing to kill us to gain supreme power? That is the image I have of Caligula, a powerful, deranged man.

What inspires you most about your work?

It is comforting to contribute a humanized face to the stories of these important characters that until now we could only contemplate in marble statues. Something that really fascinates me is the idea of recreating, in today's world, scenes that have been lost in history, with people who have been dead for over two thousand years. ■

It is comforting to contribute a humanized face to the stories of these important characters that until now we could only contemplate in marble statues

silicone that imitates the human skin. Some color touches with paint on the silicone allows the imitation of the skin as much as possible.

The next step is 'hair punching' using human hair or even goat hair. The process finishes up by cutting, combing and imitating as much as possible the characteristic hairstyle of each emperor. Lastly, the eyes. These are made by hand from plasticine models ending with the final polish in acrylic materials to look real and wet.

masterpieces, bringing everything alive that could be seen at that time in the ancient Roman world.

What is the reaction from people who come face-to-face with one of your recreated Roman rulers?

People react differently. We all have preconceived ideas and each one interprets them in a personal way. There are many people who love my job. There are other people who hate what I do. I don't get carried away by the opinions of others, I only

I CAME, I SAW, I WROTE

THE LITERARY CONQUESTS OF GAIUS JULIUS CAESAR

|| BY RILEY WINTERS

A man who needs no introduction, Gaius Julius Caesar is more than well known for the stories he spearheads—namely, his numerous military victories. Although, even his defeats somehow sound rather astounding!

Caesar's supposed quote, "*veni, vidi, vici*" ("I came; I saw; I conquered") when describing his speedy victory over Pharnasus of Pontus, son of Mithridates, continues to resonate among scholars and laymen alike. The length of Julius Caesar's life is chock-full of all sorts of "gossip"—ranging from his military victories and defeats, to rumors of his health and sexuality, to—of course—slander from his political enemies. Though he died young, Caesar lived a fascinating life.

Yet, Caesar was not just a man of which many stories were written. He was, in fact, a storyteller too. In ancient Rome, one of the best qualities of a man was his ability to address the public and politics in eloquent oration. (This trait was one of many "borrowed" from ancient Greece.) Caesar was among the best orators in the Republic. It is in great part due to this charismatic quality that Caesar was able to gain sole power (however temporary) of the Republic in the first place.

Caesar's texts, including his famous works *Commentarii de Bello Gallico* ('The Gallic Wars') and *Commentarii de Bello Civili* ('The Civil War'), are valued as literary achievements. Not all warriors are capable of creating such intriguing, well-devised literature; that Caesar becomes dictator might be an argument for why his texts have survived. Yet upon reading each book, one realizes Caesar was able to gain power in Rome with good reason—he had the military skills and charisma.

Though he undeniably painted himself and his enemies in whatever light he saw fit, Caesar was at least present for the events described; he witnessed them first-hand and dictated them for his audiences. The mere act of being present for such events is uncommon for "historians", but highly beneficial for the realism of the account. ■

VENI VEDI VICI



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Boud

The Celtic Queen Who Unleashed Fury on the Romans

|| BY JOANNA GILLAN

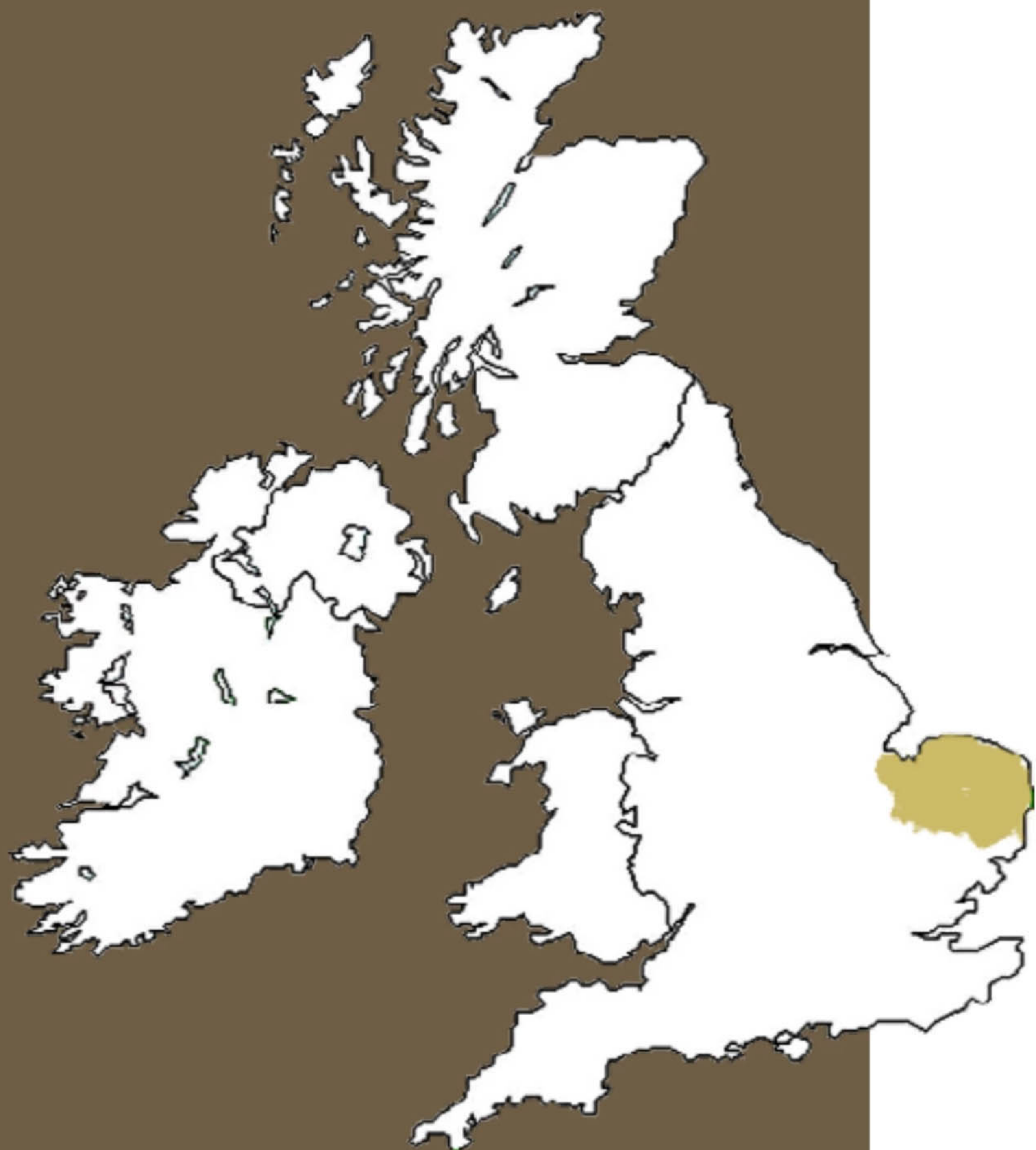
“We British are used to women commanders in war; I am descended from mighty men! But I am not fighting for my kingdom and wealth now. I am fighting as an ordinary person for my lost freedom, my bruised body, and my outraged daughters... Consider how many of you are fighting — and why! Then you will win this battle or perish. That is what I, a woman, plan to do!— let the men live in slavery if they will.”

These are the words of Queen Boudicca, according to second century AD historian Tacitus (*Annals* XIV.35), as she summoned her people to unleash war upon the invading Romans in Britain.



ioica

I am fighting as an ordinary person
for my lost freedom,
my bruised body,
and my outraged daughters



Boudicca, sometimes written Boadicea, was queen of the Iceni tribe, a Celtic clan that united a number of British tribes in revolt against the occupying forces of the Roman Empire in 60-61 AD. While she famously succeeded in defeating the Romans in three great battles, their victories would not last. The Romans rallied and eventually crushed the revolts, executing thousands of Iceni and taking the rest as slaves. Boudicca's name has been remembered through history as the courageous warrior queen who fought for freedom from oppression, for herself, and all the Celtic tribes of Britain.

THE RAISING OF A WARRIOR

Little is known about Boudicca's upbringing because the only information about her comes from Roman sources, in particular from Tacitus (56 – 117 AD), a senator and historian of the Roman Empire, and Cassius Dio (155 – 235 AD), a Roman consul and noted historian. However, it is believed that she was born into an elite family in the ancient town of Camulodunum (now Colchester) in around 30 AD and may have been named after the Celtic goddess of victory, Boudiga.

As an adolescent, Boudicca would have been sent away to another aristocratic family to be trained in the history and customs of the tribe, as well as learning how to fight in battle. Ancient Celtic women served as both warriors and rulers, and girls could be trained to fight with swords and other weapons, just as the boys were. Celtic women were distinct in the ancient world for the liberty and rights they enjoyed and the position they held in society. Compared to their counterparts in Greek, Roman, and other ancient societies, they were allowed much freedom of activity and protection under the law.

Reenactor of an ancient Celtic tribe. He is holding a carnyx, a wind instrument of the Iron Age Celts used in warfare, probably to incite troops to battle and intimidate opponents

ROMAN INVASION

In 43 AD, before the time that Boudicca reached adulthood, the Romans invaded Britain, and most of the Celtic tribes were forced to submit. However, the Romans allowed two Celtic kings to retain some of their traditional power as it was a normal Roman practice to allow kingdoms their independence for the lifetime of their client king, who would then agree to leave his kingdom to Rome in his will. One of these kings was Prasutagus, whom Boudicca went on to marry at the age of 18. Their wedding was celebrated for a day and a night and during this time they also gave offerings to the Celtic gods. Together they had two daughters, called Isolda and Siora.

However, it was not a time of harmony for Boudicca and Prasutagus. The Roman occupation brought increased settlement, military presence, and attempts to suppress Celtic religious culture. There were major economic changes, including heavy taxes and money lending.

In 60 AD, life changed dramatically for Boudicca with the death of her husband. As Prasutagus had ruled as a nominally independent but forced 'ally' of Rome, he left his kingdom jointly to his wife and daughters, and the Roman emperor. However, Roman law only allowed inheritance through the male line, so when Prasutagus died, his attempts to preserve his line were ignored and his kingdom was annexed as if it had been conquered.

To humiliate the former rulers, the Romans confiscated Prasutagus's land and property, took the nobles as slaves, publicly flogged Boudicca, and raped their two daughters. This would prove to be a catalyst that would see Boudicca swearing revenge against the brutal invaders of her lands. Tacitus

And so Boudicca began her campaign to summon the Britons to fight against the Romans, proving that 'hell hath no fury like a woman scorned'

records the words spoken by Boudicca as she vowed to avenge the actions of the Roman invaders:

"From the pride and arrogance of the Romans nothing is sacred; all are subject to violation; the old endure the scourge, and the virgins are deflowered. But the vindictive gods are now at hand."

And so Boudicca began her campaign to summon the Britons to fight against the Romans, proving that 'hell hath no fury like a woman scorned'.



Celtic gold stater of Iceni tribe displaying a horse, a wheel above, and a daisy below

Numisantica
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BOUDICCA'S REVOLT

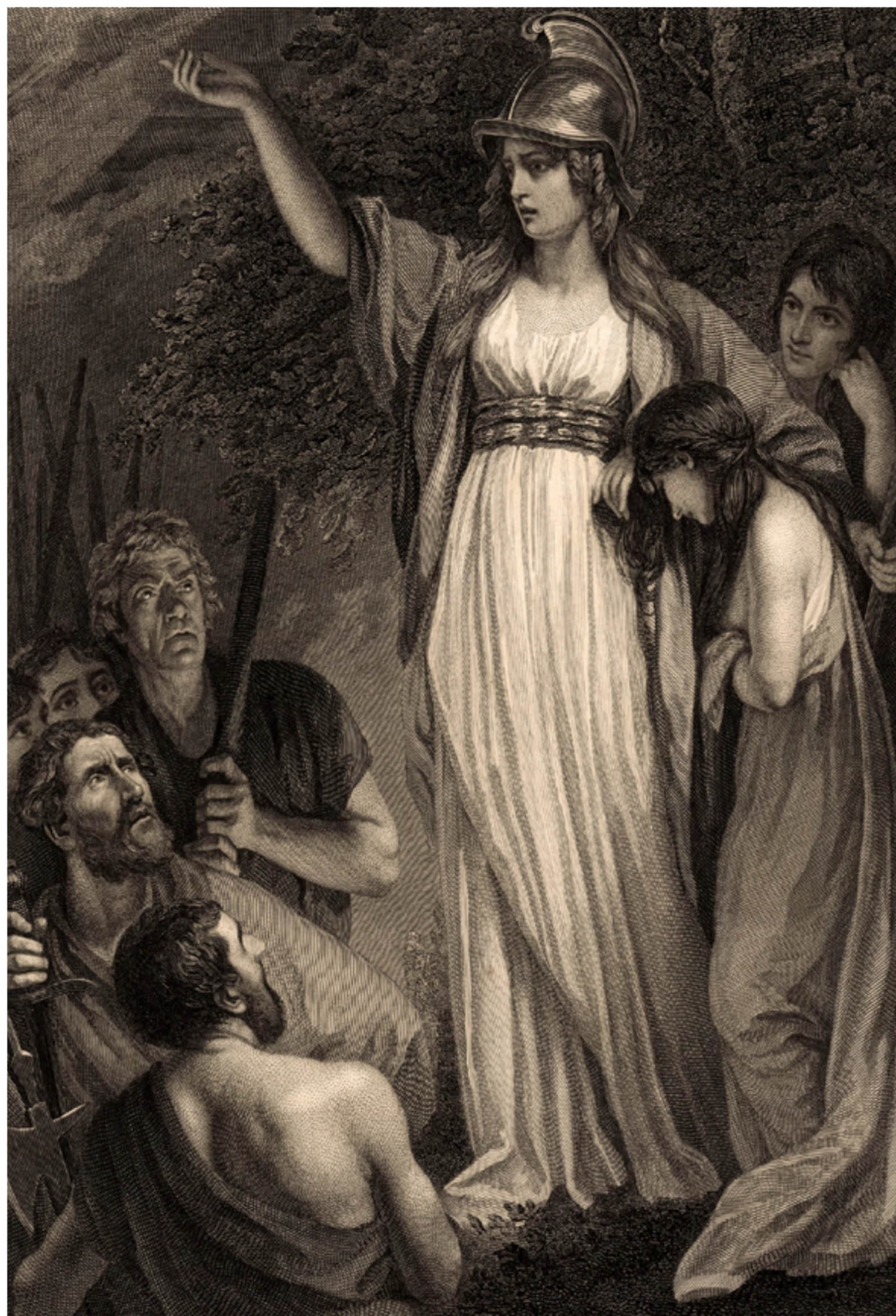
While the Romans were busy fighting the Druids, who had raised the native population and their leaders against the Romans in the west of Britain and North Wales, Boudicca spotted her chance for revenge.

Boudicca met with the leaders of the Iceni, Trinovanti, Cornovii, Durotiges, and other tribes, who also had grievances against the Romans, including the imposition of heavy taxes, grants that had been redefined as loans, the taking over of land, and Roman attempts to suppress Celtic religious practices. They planned to revolt and drive out the Romans, and Boudicca was chosen as their leader.

Tacitus describes Boudicca exhorting troops from her chariot, her daughters beside her. She presented herself not as a queen and an aristocratic avenging her lost wealth, but as an ordinary person and a mother who was seeking revenge for her lost freedom, her battered body and soul, and the defilement of her daughters. She told her people, and those belonging to allied tribes, that their cause was just and the deities were on their side.

Roman historian, Cassius Dio (155 – 235 AD), wrote that Boudicca employed a form of divination, releasing a hare from the folds of her dress to interpret the direction in which it ran, and invoked Andraste, a British goddess of victory. He also described her appearance as she stood before her crowds of followers:

“In stature she was very tall, in appearance most terrifying, in the glance of her eye most fierce, and her voice was harsh; a great mass



of the tawniest hair fell to her hips; around her neck was a large golden necklace; and she wore a tunic of diverse colors over which a thick mantle was fastened with a brooch. This was her invariable attire.”

Historical records suggest that Boudicca succeeded in gathering an army of up to 100,000 warriors. Her first target was Camulodunum (now modern-day Colchester), a town for discharged Roman soldiers and the site of a temple to the former Roman Emperor Claudius. The Iceni and their allies descended upon the town and razed it to the ground. They leveled the houses, broke the Roman statues and tombstones,

and burnt the entire settlement. They took no prisoners; every Roman citizen in the city was killed.

Upon hearing the news of the revolt, the Roman Governor Gaius Suetonius Paulinus hurried to Londinium (modern London), the twenty-year-old commercial settlement that was the Britons' next target. But the Romans, having concluded that they did not have the numbers to defend the settlement, evacuated and abandoned the town. Boudicca's warriors burned and destroyed the entire settlement, killing anyone that had not been sensible enough to leave. There were no survivors.





Roman historian Cassius Dio reports on the events:

“Two cities were sacked, eighty thousand of the Romans and of their allies perished, and the island was lost to Rome. Moreover, all this ruin was brought upon the Romans by a woman, a fact which in itself caused them the greatest shame...But the person who was chiefly instrumental in rousing the natives and persuading them to fight the Romans, the person who was thought worthy to be their leader and who directed the conduct of the entire war, was Boudicca, a Briton woman of the royal family and possessed of greater intelligence than often belongs to women....”

All this ruin was brought upon the Romans by a woman, a fact which in itself caused them the greatest shame





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Reenactor portraying an Ancient Celt with carnyx trumpet, crested helmet and chain mail



Boudicca's third and final annihilation was at Verulamium (now known as St Albans), which again was razed to the ground and completely destroyed. By the end of the final attack, an estimated 70,000 – 80,000 had been killed. The crisis caused Emperor Nero to consider withdrawing all Roman forces from Britain. Boudicca believed her destruction of three key cities would free Britain of the Romans, but she was sadly mistaken.

ROMANS RALLY

After Boudicca's attack on Verulamium, Suetonius quickly regrouped his forces in the West Midlands. Tacitus records his rallying speech to his troops:

"Despise the savage uproar, the yells and shouts of undisciplined Barbarians. In that mixed multitude, the women out-number

the men. Void of spirit, unprovided with arms, they are not soldiers who come to offer battle; they are bastards, runaways, the refuse of your swords, who have often fled before you, and will again betake themselves to flight when they see the conqueror flaming in the ranks of war. In all engagements, it is the valor of a few that turns the fortune of the day. It will be your immortal glory, that with a scanty number you can equal the exploits of a great and powerful army... Conquer, and victory gives you everything."

Boudicca's army had counted on seizing Roman food stores when the tribes abandoned their own fields to wage rebellion, but Suetonius had strategically seen to the burning of the Roman stores, and the lack of supplies weakened her forces.

Boudicca and her people fought one more battle, but it was not to be a victory. The precise location of this battle is unknown but it is believed to have taken place somewhere along the Roman road now known as Watling Street in the West Midlands.

The Britons came to face-to-face with the Romans, their numbers vastly outnumbering their opponents. What should have been an overwhelming victory, was one of disaster – Boudicca's army had to attack uphill, and exhausted and hungry, the Romans quickly gained the upper hand. The lack of maneuverability of the Britons caused by the narrowness of the field in which they fought, put them at a disadvantage to the Romans, who were skilled at open combat due to their superior equipment and discipline.

Boudicca's people had no choice but to retreat. However, they had been so certain of victory that they had asked their families to come along and watch from wagons surrounding the field. This was a big mistake, as the wagons now barred their escape route, and some 80,000 warriors and their spectators were killed. According to Tacitus, only 400 Romans died in the battle that day – although the accuracy of these numbers has been drawn into question.

In revenge, the Romans executed the Iceni and their allies or made them slaves. Their lands were taken over by the military, families lost their hereditary homelands and the great rebellion was over. The final result was that the Romans strengthened their

The whereabouts of their bodies are also shrouded in mystery. Some people believe that Boudicca was buried at Stonehenge while others suggest Norfolk, Hampstead in north London, or under a platform belonging to London's Kings Cross Station.

BOUDICCA'S LEGACY

Boudicca's story was nearly lost to the pages of history until Tacitus' work, *Annals*, was rediscovered in 1360. This led to a surge of interest in Boudicca and her relentless campaign to free her people from Roman rule.

It was in the Victorian era that Boudicca's fame took on legendary proportions as Queen Victoria came to be seen as Boudicca's namesake, their names being

In revenge, the Romans executed the Iceni and their allies or made them slaves

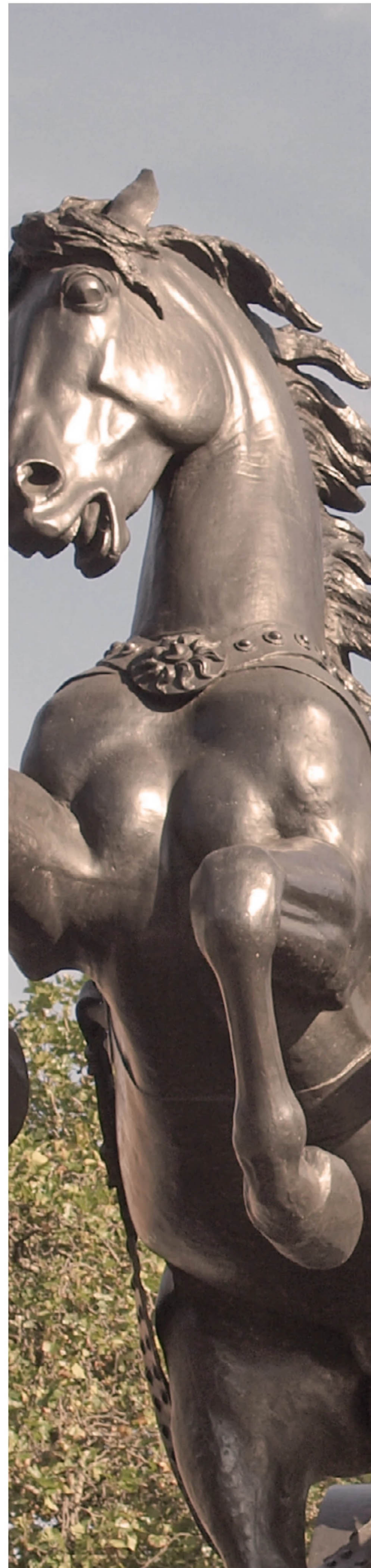
military presence in Britain – they were there to stay.

It is not known exactly what happened to Boudicca after the war. Some people suggest that she escaped with her daughters to another part of Britain, where they drank from a poisoned chalice and died. Cassius Dio wrote that she fell sick and died and was given a lavish burial; though this may have just been a convenient way to remove her from the story.

Either way, it seems that Boudicca and her daughters were saved from a fate worse than death. Had they been captured, the Romans would have made them walk in a victory parade before torturing them and displaying their bodies to cheering crowds.

identical in meaning. Victoria's Poet Laureate, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, wrote a poem, "Boadicea", and several ships were named after her.

Boudicca has since remained an important cultural symbol in the United Kingdom. A great bronze statue of Boudicca with her daughters in her war chariot was commissioned by Prince Albert and executed by Thomas Thornycroft. It was completed in 1905 and now stands next to Westminster Bridge and the Houses of Parliament, positioned in the city that she had once razed to the ground in her quest for freedom. ■







COMES THE MOMENT, COMES THE WOMAN

WOMEN WHO RULED THEIR WORLDS

||BY DR. MICKI PISTORIUS

T rue leadership knows no gender and despite societal condemnation or restrictions of the gods, powerful women have risen to the challenge and stepped up to take the reins of governance firmly in their delicate hands. Queens in their own right, their reigns are characterized by progress, wealth and prosperity, intellectual mining, civil

his queen Ahmose bore a princess named Hatshepsut in 1508 BC. She was the only child of the pharaoh and his first wife and if the lineage of rule was passed on to daughters, she would have been first in line to inherit the royal crown at the age of 12 when her father died. However, Hatshepsut was married to her half-brother Thutmose II, to become his principal wife and queen. They bore a

The gods of Egypt had allegedly decreed
that the king's role could never be
fulfilled by a woman

construction, military genius, and even human sacrifice. A walk through 2000 years of history delivers some of the most outstanding Queens, who left a legacy as worthy and impressive as the monuments they had constructed as their final tombs.

1500 BC: HATSHEPSUT, THE QUEEN WHO BECAME KING

The Egyptian pharaoh Thutmose I and

daughter, Neferue, and Thutmose II had a son, Thutmose III, with a concubine. At the age of 27, Thutmose II passed away and Hatshepsut became regent for her stepson Thutmose III.

The gods of Egypt had allegedly decreed that the king's role could never be fulfilled by a woman. The Egyptian pantheon consisted of 24 Egyptian goddesses, 26 male deities, and six androgynous gods.



Statue of Hatshepsut

The most powerful Egyptian goddess was Isis, and then there was Hathor, Bastet, Maat, Nut and many more. Most probably, the 'decree of the gods' was imposed by male priests and politicians. How quick they were to forget Sobekneferu, another woman who ruled as pharaoh during the 12th dynasty, albeit only for four years. Possibly Hatshepsut reasoned that the 24 female deities would back her up, so by 1437 BC she defied the decree and had the *nemes* crown of Pharaoh placed firmly on her head.

To gain legitimacy in the eyes of her subjects, and perhaps reach a compromise with her courtiers, Hatshepsut changed her name, which meant 'Foremost of Noble Ladies', to the male version Hatshepsu. She is depicted as wearing male attire and even sporting a false male beard.

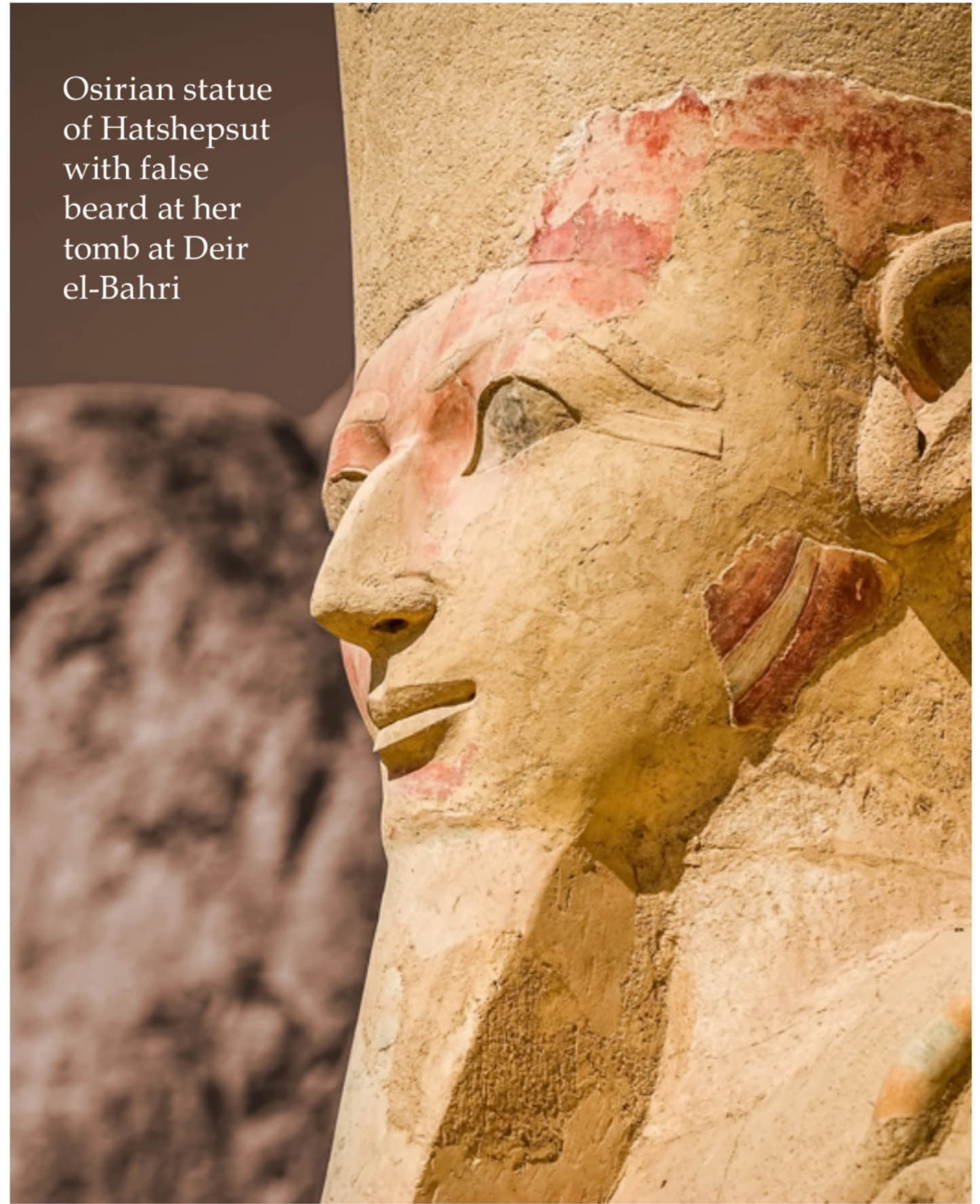
Traditionally, statues of men were painted with a deep red pigment and women with a lighter yellow pigment, but interestingly,



statues of her were painted a unique orange skin tone, a fusion between the two colors.

Whatever her exterior cosmetic trimmings, Hatshepsut was an effective and highly successful ruler for 21 years. Her major achievement was to re-establish the trade routes that had been disrupted during the Hyksos occupation of Egypt during the Second Intermediate Period (1650-1550 BC), between the end of the Middle Kingdom and the start of the New Kingdom. Trading with the Land of Punt brought wealth and prosperity to Egypt. She commissioned hundreds of building projects throughout Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt, of which the most monumental was the mortuary temple complex at Deir el-Bahri, on the West bank of the Nile. She planted myrrh trees, which she had secured from Punt, at this complex. Regarding her foreign relations policy, she mostly maintained diplomatic peace relations, but she also led military campaigns into Nubia and Canaan, and she sent raiding parties to Byblos and Sinai.

Osirian statue of Hatshepsut with false beard at her tomb at Deir el-Bahri



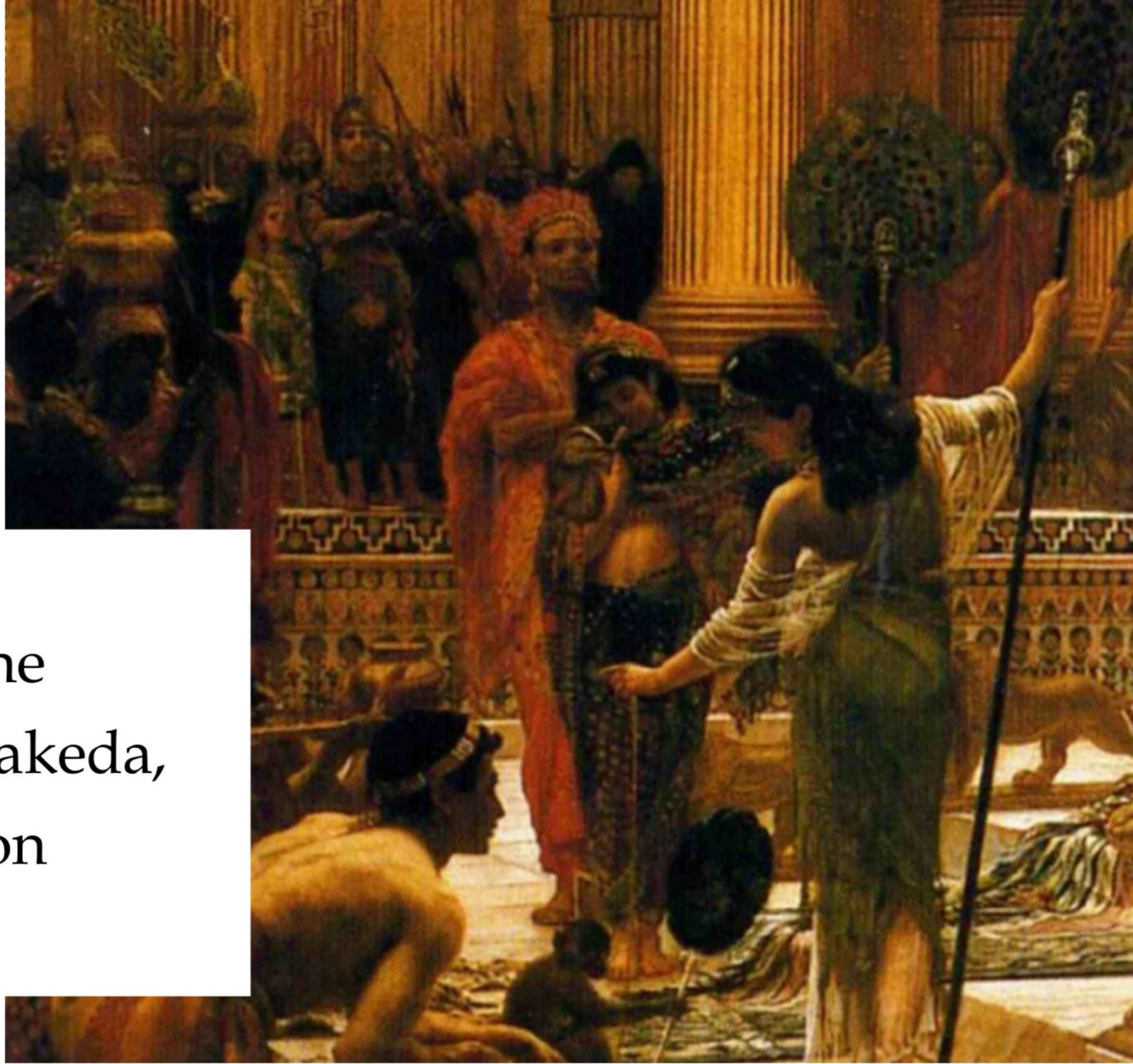
HATSHEPSUT



Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahri

Hatshepsut died around 1458 BC, aged in her late 40s. Her stepson Thutmose III tried to eradicate all evidence of her rule and it was only in 1822 AD, when hieroglyphs on the walls of Deir el-Bahri were decoded, that her existence and astonishing rule was revealed. While the mummies of Thutmose I, II, and III were all discovered at DB320, in the Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut was nowhere to be found. Dr. Zahi Hawass revisited the tomb known as KV60, where two

QUEEN OF SHE



It is Ethiopia who claims the Queen of Sheba, named Makeda, as the mother of their nation

mummies had been discovered by Howard Carter. He found a small box containing a decomposed internal organ and a tooth. Modern scans of the female mummies indicated one of them had an empty tooth socket, to which the discovered tooth was a perfect match. Through modern forensic testing, the mummy was positively identified as Hatshepsut in 2007. The Queen Pharaoh had been restored in her own right.

1000 BC: QUEEN OF SHEBA, FOUNDER OF THE ETHIOPIAN SOLOMONIC DYNASTY

Although she has almost reached cult status as a legendary figure, the Queen of Sheba is recognized in all three of the Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The location of Sheba has always been disputed. Some place it in southern Arabia as the Kingdom of Saba (modern-day Yemen), and Arab sources refer to the Queen of Sheba as Balqis or Bilqis. Around the middle of the first millennium BC, there were Sabaeans also in the Horn of Africa, in the area that later became the realm of Aksum, which is located in Ethiopia. Thus, it is

Ethiopia who claims the Queen of Sheba, named Makeda, as the mother of their nation. The identification of Ethiopia as Sheba is supported by the first century AD Jewish historian, Josephus in his *Antiquities of the Jews* who identified Saba as a walled, royal city of Ethiopia, which Cambyses II renamed as Meroë. This name is found in the 14th century *Kebra Nagast* ('The Glory of Kings'), which was written in the 14th century and considered to be Ethiopia's national epic.

The Queen of Sheba is purported to have had access to unknown wealth. In the Qu'ran a hoopoe, informs King Solomon about the land of Sheba, governed by a woman, who "has been given of all things, and she has a great throne". 1 Kings 10:10 of the Hebrew Bible confirms her riches as such: "And she gave the king 120 talents (about four tons) of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones: there came no more such abundance of spices as



The Queen of Sheba, from a 15th-century manuscript



The Visit of the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon, Edward Poynter, 1890



these which the Queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon. / And the navy also of Hiram, that brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir great plenty of almug trees, and precious stones”.

There is no doubt that both the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon were aware of the other’s riches. Who was going to bend the knee to the other’s magnificent throne first? Although the queen was aware of her kingdom’s military strength, she opted for a more diplomatic approach and decided to send King Solomon gifts. The gifts were rejected by Solomon, who said: “Do you provide me with wealth? But what Allah has given me is better than what He has given you. Rather, it is you who rejoice in your gift”. In male fashion, Solomon then threatened to take military action if the queen still did not acquiesce to his summons. Whether her curiosity got the better of her one would never know, but the Queen of Sheba decided to travel to Jerusalem and brought with her “a very great train, with camels that bear

spices, and very much gold, and precious stones”. She asked King Solomon three riddles to test his wisdom and he in turn tried to trick her by making her walk over a floor of glass, which she mistook for water. Once the trickery and riddles were set aside, the two regents got to know each other more intimately.

The Queen of Sheba fell pregnant by King Solomon and bore him a son, Menilek, who became king, thus founding the royal Solomonic dynasty of Ethiopia, which ruled until the deposition of Haile Selassie I in 1974. In Yemen, archaeologists excavating the ancient Sabaean Awwām Temple (called the Sanctuary of the Queen of Sheba), found no reference to the Queen of Sheba in the many inscriptions there, and the British Museum states there is no archaeological evidence for her existence, yet. Perhaps, like Hatshepsut, the Queen of Sheba may reveal herself in a lost tooth or some other artifact, waiting to be reconstructed by modern technology.

Cleopatra VII
was considered
one of the most
intelligent
women of her
time



69 BC: CLEOPATRA, THE INTELLECTUAL QUEEN OF EGYPT

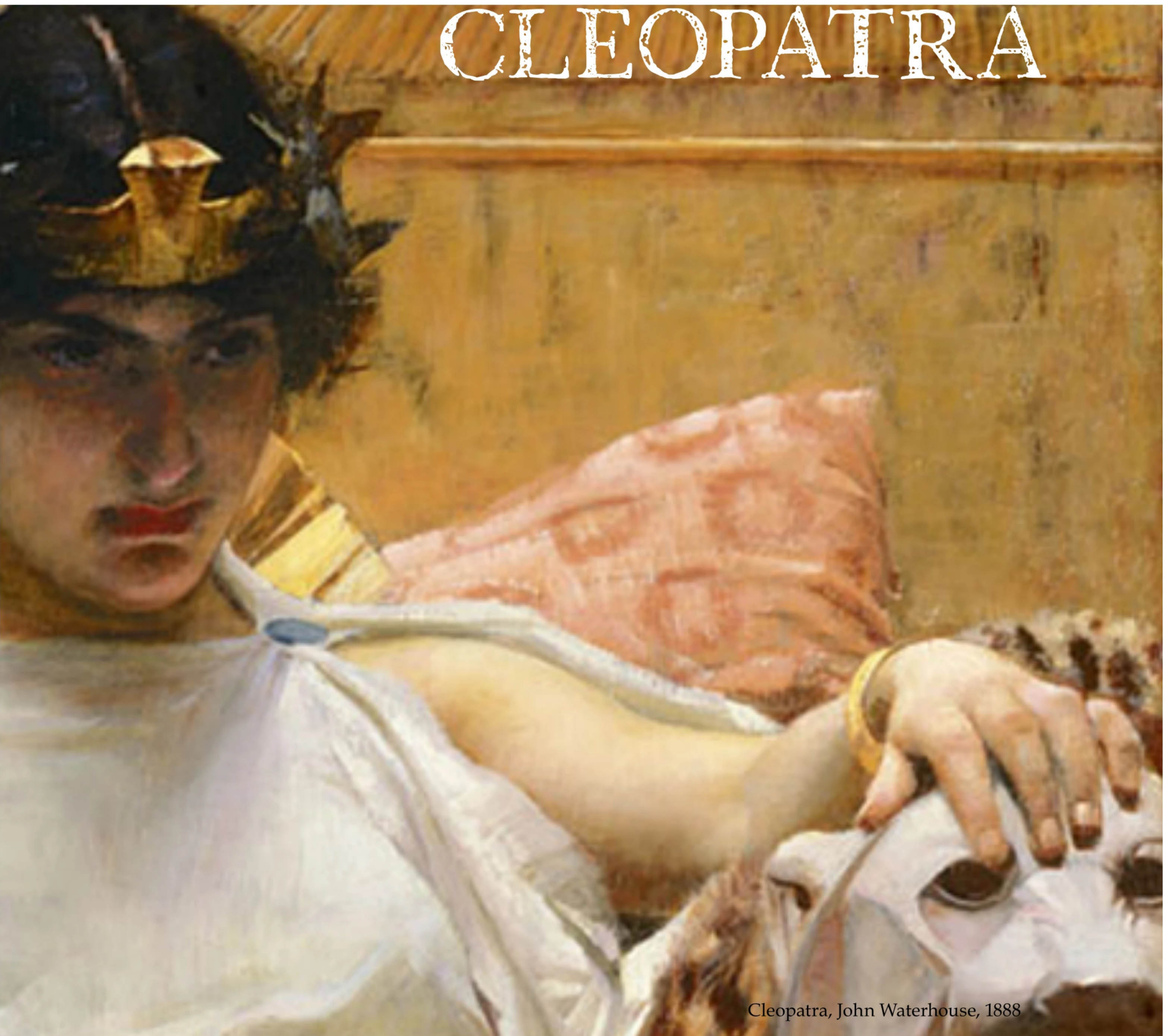
Everyone is familiar with the legend of Cleopatra, famous for her beauty, her habit of bathing in donkey's milk, and seducing both Julius Caesar and Mark Anthony of Rome. Yet few give recognition that Cleopatra VII was considered one of the most intelligent women of her time. Cleopatra was born in 69 BC, to pharaoh Ptolemy XII. Like her predecessor Hatshepsut,

she became pharaoh, but she had to outwit her siblings to seize the throne of Egypt.

It seems the Greek Ptolemies were less bound by the ancient Egyptian deities' decree not to appoint women as rulers. In 81 BC, Ptolemy IX died and was succeeded by his daughter Berenice III. However, Egyptian court still objected to a sole reigning queen and she married her stepson, Ptolemy XI, who

promptly had her killed. Berenice's namesake Berenice IV, Cleopatra's older sister, claimed the throne when their father, Ptolemy XII, accompanied by Cleopatra, made a state visit to Rome. Berenice was killed in 55 BC, upon his return. Ptolemy XII ruled until his death in 51 BC, when Cleopatra and her younger brother Ptolemy XIII inherited the joint custody of Egypt. Their disagreement led to a civil war. Julius Caesar, the Roman consul, intervened

CLEOPATRA



Cleopatra, John Waterhouse, 1888

but was besieged, along with Cleopatra, by Ptolemy XIII. Caesar's reinforcements lifted the siege and Ptolemy died in the 47 BC Battle of the Nile. Cleopatra's sister Arsinoe IV was exiled to Ephesus for her role in carrying out the siege, and later killed by Cleopatra's lover, Mark Anthony. Caesar appointed the 22-year old Cleopatra and her 12-year old youngest brother Ptolemy XIV as joint rulers, but Cleopatra would have none of sharing the throne with a brother

and had him assassinated in 44 BC. Clearly, she was a clever political strategist.

Cleopatra has been hailed as one of the most beautiful women on earth, but it seems her beauty was reflected in her intellect. Plutarch acknowledges in his *Life of Antony*, (XXVII.2-3): "For her beauty, as we are told, was in itself not altogether incomparable, nor such as to strike those who saw her; but converse with her

had an irresistible charm, and her presence, combined with the persuasiveness of her discourse and the character which was somehow diffused about her behavior towards others, had something stimulating about it. There was sweetness also in the tones of her voice; and her tongue, like an instrument of many strings, she could readily turn to whatever language she pleased...".



As a royal princess, Cleopatra's childhood tutor was Philostratos, who taught her oration and philosophy. She was the first Greek pharaoh who learned ancient Egyptian, she could interpret hieroglyphs, and she was of course fluent in Greek – her native language - as well as the languages of the Parthians, Jews, Medes, Trogodyatae, Syrians, Ethiopians, and Arabs. She studied geography, history, astronomy, international diplomacy, mathematics, alchemy, medicine, zoology, economics, and more. With an obvious flair for languages and given her history with Caesar and Mark Anthony, she probably accomplished Latin as well. Like an ancient Estee Lauder, she manufactured cosmetics in her laboratory and wrote a few works related to herbs and cosmetology. Her work was well-known during the first centuries of Christianity, but sadly all her books were destroyed in the fire of 391 AD, when the great Library of Alexandria was incinerated. Cleopatra herself had studied as a student at the Library of Alexandria.

During the Roman Liberator's War, Cleopatra sided with Mark Anthony and sailed at the head of her own fleet to his aid. Unfortunately, her ships were severely damaged in a Mediterranean storm and she arrived too late to participate in the battle. Her later alliance with Mark Anthony secured her the former Ptolemaic territories in the Levant, including nearly all of Phoenicia (modern-day Lebanon), Ptolemais Akko (modern Acre in Israel), the region of Coele-Syria along the upper Orontes River and the region surrounding Jericho in Palestine, which she leased back to Herod. She also gained a portion of the Nabataean Kingdom, Cyrene along the Libyan coast, and Itanos and Olous in Roman Crete, proving once again what she lacked in military strength, she made up for in clever strategy.

Cleopatra was the last active ruler of the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt and after her death in 30 BC, Egypt became a province of the Roman Empire. When Cleopatra died, her intellectual legacy was transferred to her daughter with Mark Anthony— Cleopatra Selene. She married the future king Juba II of Mauretania, a great intellectual himself, who encouraged his wife to cultivate the memory of her great mother.

270 AD: ZENOBIA, QUEEN OF PALMYRA

Cleopatra's intellectual legacy was passed on from generation to generation, finally to Zenobia, who seized rulership like her famous ancestor. At the time of Zenobia's birth in 240 AD, Palmyra was a Roman province. Her names, Julia Aurelia Zenobia, indicate her Roman citizenship, granted previously to her father's family.

Zenobia's ascent to power began as the second wife of Septimius Odaenathus, the Roman governor of Palmyra who had defeated the Sassanian king, Shapur. Upon the assassination of Odaenathus and Hairan, his firstborn son from his first wife, in 267 AD by emperor Gallienus, Zenobia's son, Vaballathus, became king of Palmyra, and Zenobia became regent. Like Cleopatra, Zenobia entertained intellectuals and philosophers at her court, she was generous towards her subjects and tolerated religious minorities, but where Cleopatra had expanded Egypt's territories by clever manipulation, Zenobia expanded her territory by military maneuvers.



Zenobia - Queen of Palmyra



ZENOBIA

During the third century AD, Rome experienced a severe crisis, dubbed the Imperial Crisis (235–284 AD) when the empire was besieged with invasions, rebellions, civil wars, plagues, and economic depression. Queen Zenobia saw the opportunity to capitalize on the situation, by expanding Palmyra's territory and finally to achieve independence from Rome. Standing on her lineage from Cleopatra, she laid claim to the now-Roman province of Egypt. Her claim was recognized by the Egyptian Timagenes, who rallied his troops to defeat the prefect of Egypt, Tetradius Probus. After annexing Egypt, Zenobia turned her armies to Anatolia, conquering Syria, Palestine and Lebanon, on the way.

The Roman emperor Aurelian had no choice but to recognize the Palmyrene Empire, as

he was facing a bigger threat in the West. Zenobia, still acting as regent for her son, had coins minted showing Vaballathus and Aurelian holding equal rank. Not long after, only Vaballathus and Zenobia herself featured on the coins. By 272 AD, Zenobia declared her son emperor and assumed the title of empress, an affront which convinced Aurelius to turn his armies to the East. He defeated Zenobia at Antioch and Emesa. Zenobia first fled to her beloved Palmyra and then attempted to escape by camel with her son, but she was apprehended by Aurelian. The fate of the Palmyrene Queen after that is pure speculation; that she was paraded by Aurelian during his triumph, that she was granted a villa by Aurelius and that she married a wealthy Roman. She died after 274 AD, but her legacy is still celebrated as she is revered as a symbol of patriotism in Syria.





Queen Zenobia's Last Look Upon Palmyra,
Herbert Gustave Schmalz, 1888



The citadel of Halabiye, Syria,
renamed "Zenobia" after its renovation by the queen



Ozesama / CC BY SA 4.0

Recreation of the
Lady of Cao, a
powerful woman
who led the
Chicama Valley
1700 years ago

500 AD: THE LADY OF CAO, PERU

In 1987, excavations at Huaca Rajada, Sipán, revealed intact tombs, with several mummies, of which the first was dubbed 'The Lord of Sipán'. His jewelry and ornaments of gold, silver, copper, and precious stones indicated he was of the highest rank. There were two pyramids at Huaca Rajada, as at the later Moche site, discovered at El Brujo.

In 2006, at Huaca El Brujo (Sacred Place of the Wizard) on the northern coastline of Peru overlooking the blue Pacific, another mummy was discovered, but this time, she was a woman. The Lady of Cao, as she is called, had died in her mid-twenties about 1,500 years ago, probably due to a complication of childbirth. A second young woman, probably a sacrifice, was entombed with her.

The two main pyramids, Huaca del Sol and the Huaca de la Luna at El Brujo were once the centers of social and religious celebrations of the pre-Inca Moche culture. When Peruvian archaeologists first began to discover images of Moche life, depicted on the tomb walls, they were convinced that the images were metaphorical representations of cosmic events, as certainly no culture could have had powerful blood-drinking priestess mystics, who ruled such a society.

Previously, it was thought that the society was ruled by men, after the discovery of the Lord of Sipán. However, one ritual depicted on the tomb wall shows tied-up, vanquished naked individuals, marching up to the top platform of the great pyramid where their throats are cut, as a sacrifice to a supreme deity. Astonishingly, a great silver goblet, the mark of a ruler in Moche society, is used to collect the blood and then the blood is



A great silver goblet, the mark of a ruler in Moche society, is used to collect the blood and then the blood is consumed by the priestess-queen

consumed by the priestess-queen. Not only the wealth of the artifacts, but actually the weapons found with the female mummy, indicate that she may have been a ruler.

What made the Lady of Cao more remarkable was her tattoos. The Moche did not mummify their dead deliberately, but the dry climate happened to preserve the Lady of Cao and her intricate tattoos. Although it is not believed that the more common members of Moche society were tattooed, it could certainly be inferred from this burial that the highest status members probably were, and the tattoos represented and strengthened the individual's connection with the divine through sympathetic magic.

No-one knows the exact circumstances of the life of the Lady of Cao, but it is clear that she was awarded equal status in her death to that of the presumed male rulers. Like Hatshepsut, modern technology has brought the Lady of Cao back to life. With the help of 3-D printing, a facial reconstruction of the priestess-queen now serves as a Peruvian model of female rulership. ■



The Richest King



Mansa Musa Disrupted Whole Economies With His Wealth

|| By Kerry Sullivan



With a net worth of \$130 billion, Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon, is the richest man in the world. But he is not the richest in history. That title goes to Mansa Musa I, a Malian king whose wealth was so great, he disrupted economies as he traversed lands on a 4,000-mile pilgrimage.

Born in the 1280s AD, Mansa Musa became a powerful king who expanded the Mali Empire by conquering 24 cities. By the time he died around 1337 AD, he had amassed a fortune that, adjusted for inflation, would have been worth over \$400 billion.

Mansa Musa made his initial fortune from the gold and salt mines of West Africa. The Mali Empire was founded out of the remains of the Ghanaian Empire. At its height under Musa I, the Mali Empire stretched across Western Africa from the Atlantic Ocean to Timbuktu – an empire over 2,000 miles across. In addition to incorporating many cities under his direct reign, Mansa Musa collected tributes from many others.

The wealth of Mansa Musa was only one part of his legacy. By controlling the important trade routes between the Mediterranean and the West African coast, Mansa Musa established his city Timbuktu as the Western center for Islamic culture and learning. He paid an Andalusian architect about 440 pounds of gold to build the Djinguereber Mosque, which still stands today. Within his Empire, he encouraged urbanization by funding schools and mosques.

In 1324 AD, Mansa Musa made a pilgrimage to Mecca, a 4,000-mile journey, with such an extravagant display of wealth that he even caught the attention of the distracted Europeans. Chroniclers describe an entourage of tens of thousands of soldiers, civilians, slaves, 500 serving women, 500 heralds bearing gold staffs, and hundreds of camels and horses carrying gold.

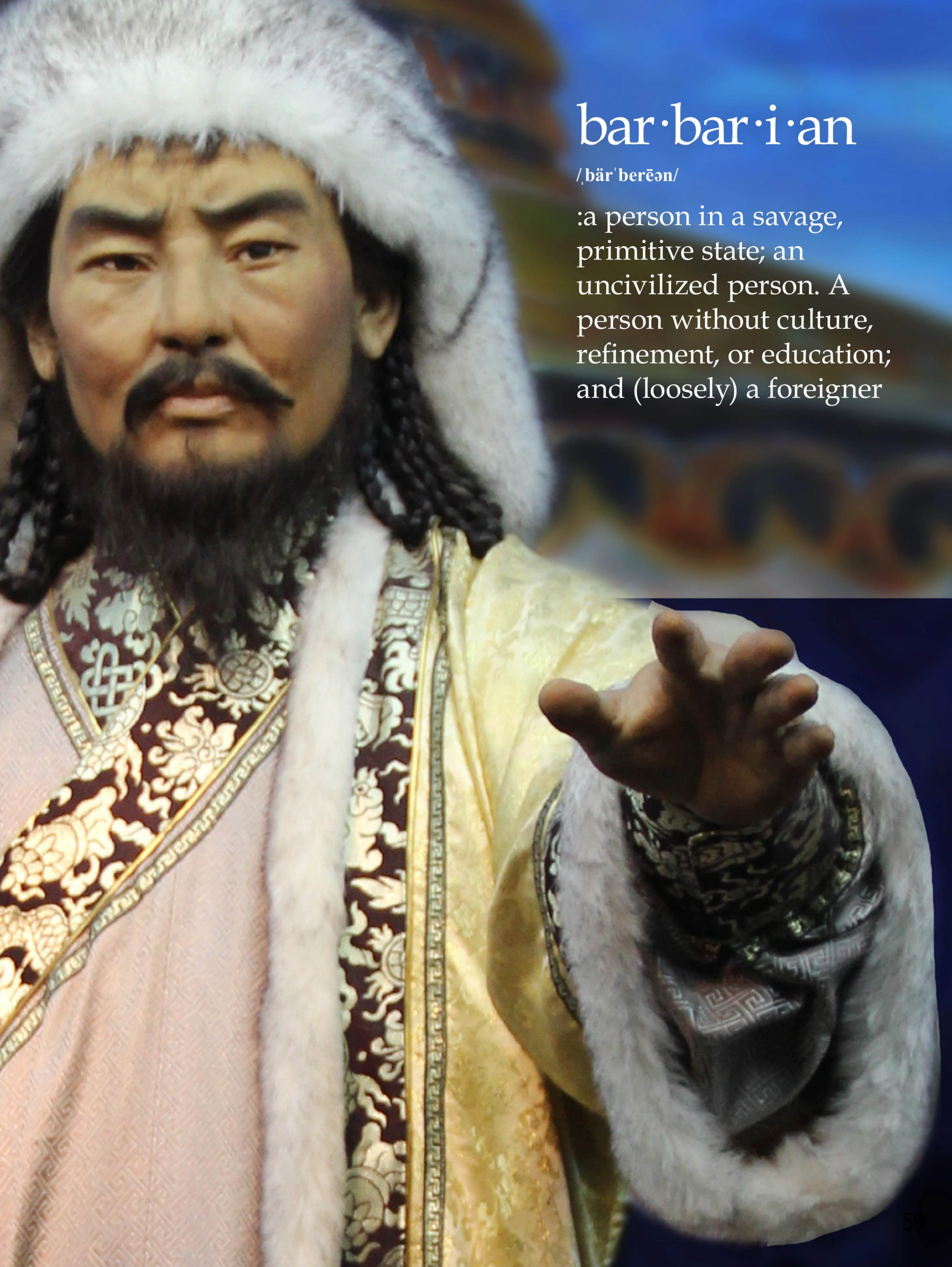
When he reached the famed city of Cairo, he spent so much money – giving gold to the poor, buying food for his retinue, and purchasing souvenirs to bring home – that he caused runaway inflation that took the city years to recover from! ■



DID HISTORY GET THE STORY WRONG?

QIN SHI HUANG | GENGHIS KHAN | ATTILA THE HUN

INTERVIEW WITH DAVID G. JONES
BY DR. MICKI PISTORIUS



bar·bar·i·an

/bär'berēən/

:a person in a savage, primitive state; an uncivilized person. A person without culture, refinement, or education; and (loosely) a foreigner



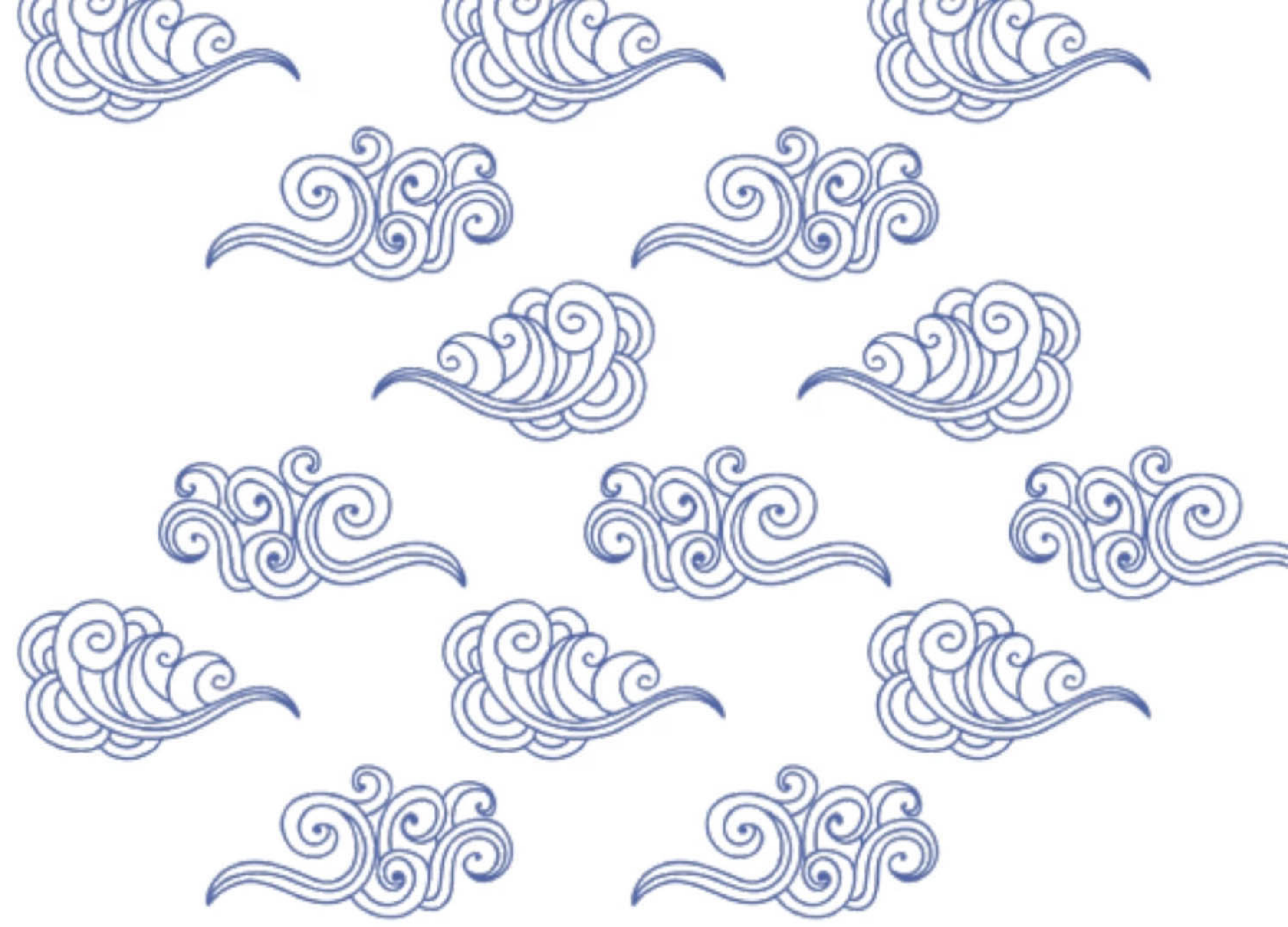
QIN SHI HUANG



ATTILA THE HUN



GENGHIS KHAN



Ancient histories were written by the first person who had access to a clay tablet, papyrus, or stone monument. These ‘histories’ - as we in the modern world have declared them - usually were the work of literate professionals, or leaders working for or within established authorities. One needs to ask, if one is to be true to the principals of historical analysis, whether these texts are actual histories, as in “The Truth,” or are they also sometimes, or maybe even often, just opinion.

David G. Jones (B.A., M.A.) offers a unique perspective on the life and legacy of three powerful rulers - Qin Shi Huang, Genghis Khan and Attila the Hun, examining whether they really were the barbarian rulers they’ve been made out to be, or are they instead the victims of an organized character assassination?

David G. Jones is a retired executive, university administrator, and teacher. Among other achievements, he holds an officer’s commission in the Canadian Army, was awarded the Queen’s Jubilee Medal, and is a Fellow of the University of King’s College. He has 25 years’ experience researching and writing about the ancient world.

MP: Why does ancient history differentiate between “civilized people” and “barbarians”?

DGJ: [Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com) defines a barbarian as: “a person in a savage, primitive state; an uncivilized person. A person without culture, refinement, or education; and (loosely) a foreigner. In ancient and medieval periods that may have referred to a non-Greek; a person living outside the Roman Empire; a person not living in a Christian country or within a Christian civilization.”



14th century illustration - Mongols at War

Dictionary.com says civilization represents: “an advanced state of human society, in which a high level of culture, science, industry, and government has been reached. It is also the act or process of civilizing, as by bringing out of a savage, uneducated, or unrefined state, or of being civilized.”

Back in ancient times, it was usually the major powers and their conquering armies who declared themselves “civilized” - and they were bringing “civilization” to the barbarians, or perhaps they were trying to wipe them out because they were “uncivilized.”

By what means are these ideas, judgments, and messages transmitted?

Tribes and nations, as they verge towards conquest or conflict, tend to mount a campaign of disinformation and debasement against their opponents. The object is to make their own populations believe they are taking appropriate and honorable action against an inferior entity, who is usually cast as the aggressor, and dangerous if not confronted. This hype and hyperbole flavors the classifications for we and them, and is usually taken on faith and trust. In those days, you just might be risking your life if you challenged these classifications and all that was being said about them officially. These processes are the tools and techniques of propaganda and they form part of what people know and believe. War propaganda, for example, starts very early, before conflict is even apparent. It gushes when war breaks out and it finds itself immortalized when the “history” of engagements

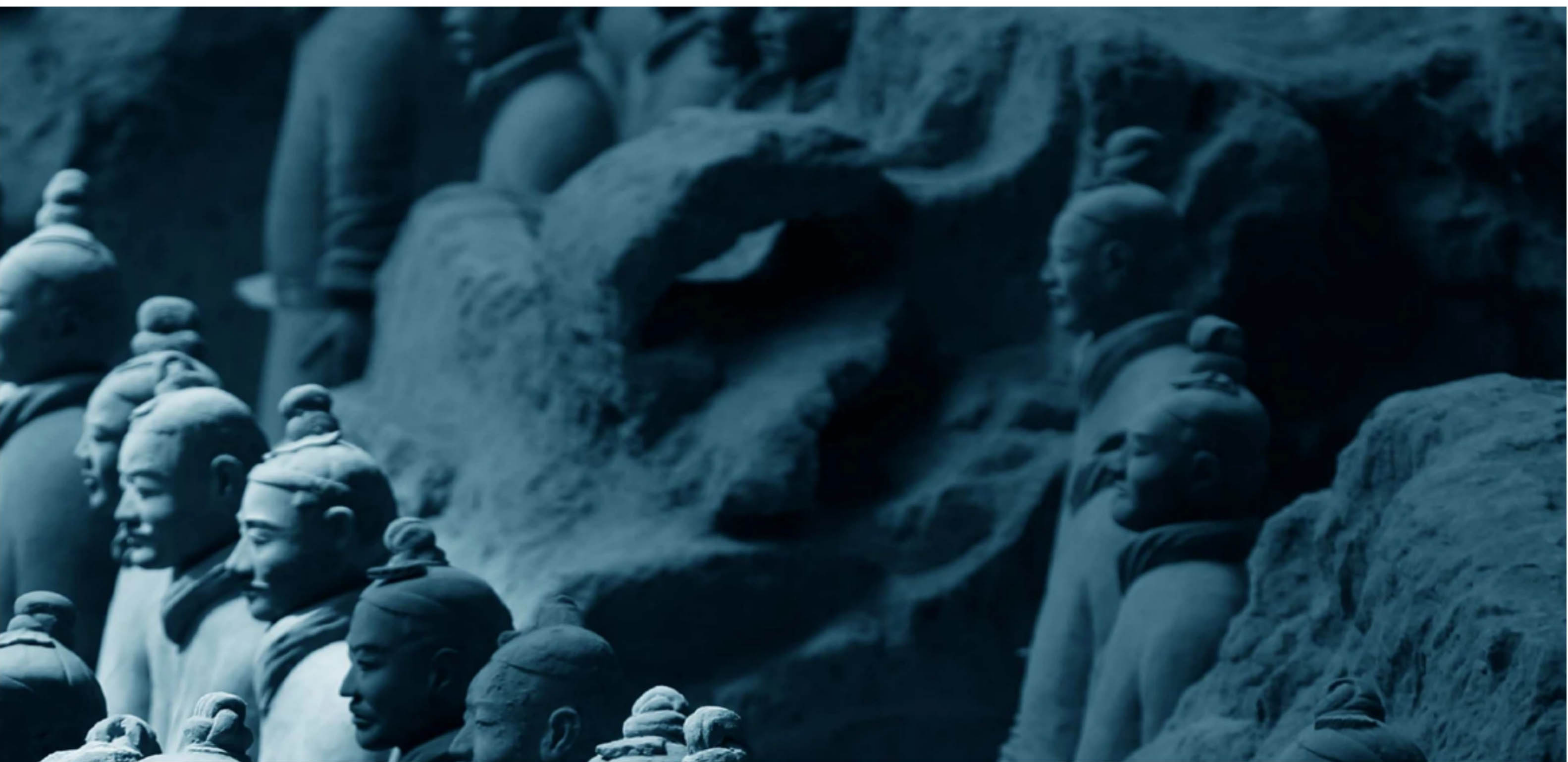


and conclusions are written. Interestingly, propaganda is in no way constrained by what really happens. A nation suffering a colossal defeat may well be written up as the victor in all that happened.

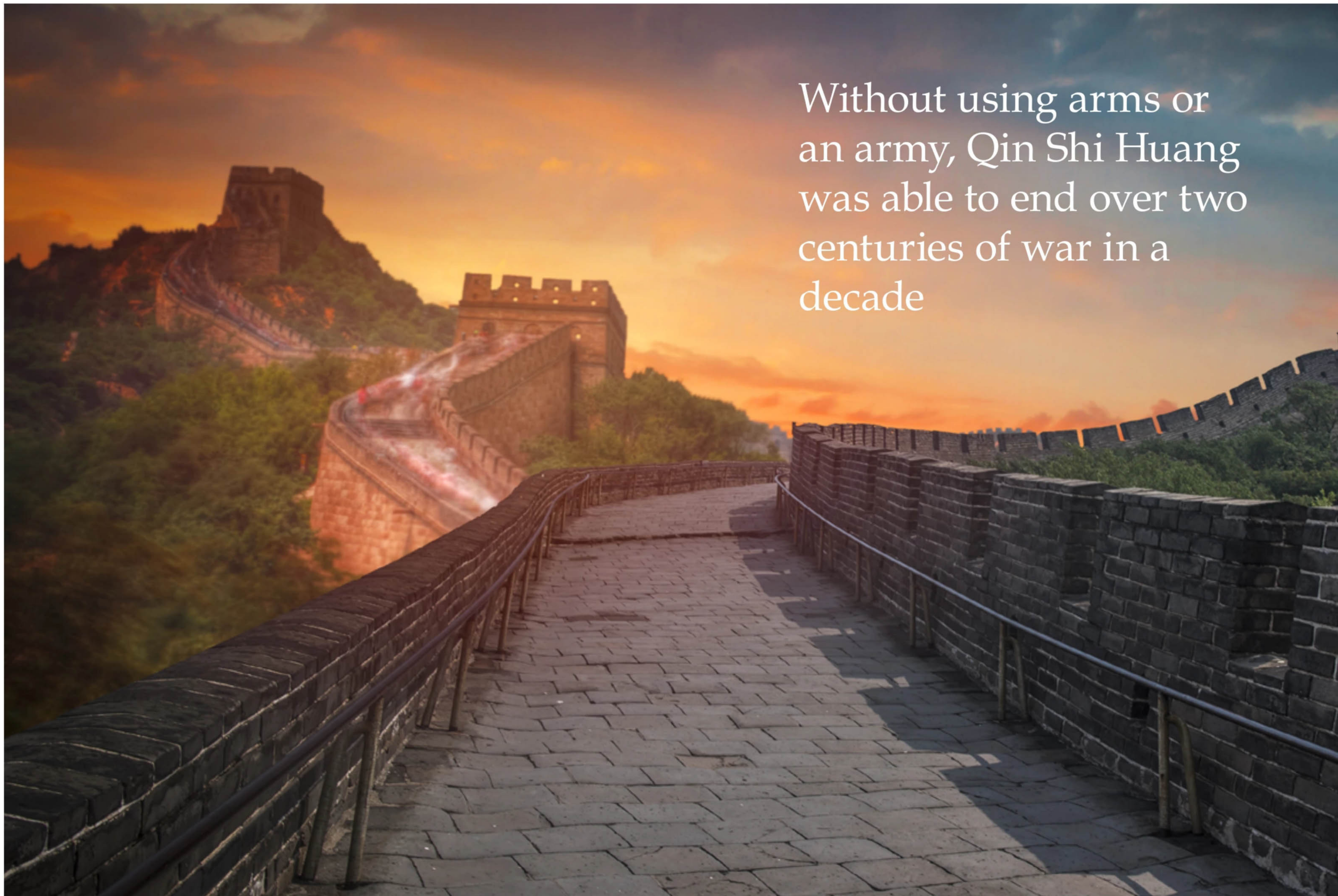
QIN SHI HUANG

Tell us about Qin Shi Huang (259 - 210 BC) and his achievements.

Qin Shi Huang entered the arena of Chinese statesmanship at a very young age, in the midst of the 200-year long period of the Warring States. Through cleverness and intrigue, he ascended to the throne of the state of Qin where he surrounded himself with the brightest and best government advisors and tacticians that the old Middle Kingdom had to offer.



Kanegen/CC BY 2.0



Without using arms or an army, Qin Shi Huang was able to end over two centuries of war in a decade

He - and other Qin leaders - established academies of learning where students studied governance, economics, agriculture, war and diplomacy. The king issued a terse instruction to the academies: find a way to end war, consolidate the kingdoms and found one nation. It took a lot of work, but those academies were able to tell the young king that one did not end war with war. Other means had to be found to build his nation. Through the world of the Qin academies, a legion of itinerant “persuaders” traveled about the lands we now call China and convinced people there was a better way to live. A groundswell of support caused the fall of feudal domains throughout the Middle Kingdom. Without using arms or

an army, Qin Shi Huang was able to end over two centuries of war in a decade.

With victory in place, the king took direct and dramatic action. He banished the Confucians and military from court, confiscated all weapons and cast them into statues, and made war illegal. He then moved all the former royal families to the new national capital and stripped them of power. Needless to say, their fury was dreadful to behold, exceeded only by that of the military and Confucians.

These enemies would never forgive Qin Shi Huang for robbing them of their influence and stately lifestyles. When he died unexpectedly, his enemies

seized power. Qin Shi Huang was all-powerful and loved, for he brought peace and prosperity. The founders of the second empire knew they must totally discredit the first empire if their coup was to be successful and enduring.

The propaganda techniques they had learned from Qin Shi Huang were used against his heirs and successors - and the people of China. To this day, people there and around the world believe China really originated with the second empire, and that the emperor who loved learning, good government, and who prohibited war, buried scholars and burned books.

What are the contraindications in history?



Could a man who buried scholars alive and burned books build what would be called an advanced university of colleges today, develop a progressive Taoism that made for self-worth and self-actualization, and built a structure of government that has lasted to this day? Qin Shi Huang developed and codified profound and extensive laws and regulations that governed all aspects of life.

But the emperor's dynasty failed. For whatever reason, he did not have a plan of succession. There were, apparently, no fully competent heirs to take control after his death. Other historical analysts might suggest that it didn't matter who succeeded him, as they would have been assassinated by the enemies lying

in wait. Indeed, all his relatives were murdered very soon after his death.

ATTILA THE HUN

Attila (406 – c. 453 AD) has been generally reviled in the popular media and press, and often in learned journals. He is also blamed in some sources for the fall of the Roman Empire. Does he deserve this reputation?

The common view in histories of Attila and the Huns being 'barbarians' was derived from the Huns being different from the high ground claimed by the Roman Empire. While most historians concede Attila belongs in the lists of great conquerors, one never sees 'Attila the Great' - joining

the ranks of Cyrus the Great and Alexander the Great. One almost always sees 'Attila the Hun'. This reads as a pejorative to ensure nobody forgets for one moment he was a ruffian leader of filthy peasants who had the audacity to attack 'civilization'.

The only report we have on the Huns before the time of Attila was written by Ammianus Marcellinus who considered the Huns 'half-human'. Christopher Kelly is of the opinion it is unlikely he ever met a Hun, and regardless, he had no training or skills that would have contributed to the veracity of his observations. Some of the more recent reports go no further in seeking the truth than did Marcellinus.

Historian Philip Matyszak repeats much of the same old stuff including the allegation that Attila had eaten two of his sons.

The Romans apparently did not differentiate the Huns from the ragtag bands and tribes along and beyond their northern frontier, all being more or less as disorganized if not chaotic, unfocused, and unsettled. These ruffians, they felt, had no culture. Marcellinus said the Huns lived outdoors, had no buildings, and changed their clothing only after it had rotted from their bodies.

What do we know about Attila?

Before the Huns started moving westward into the Great Hungarian Plain early in the fifth century AD,

little was said about them.

They may have had Mongolian ancestry but that is not at all certain.

Their interest was apparently herding and animal

breeding, but worsening conditions, possibly, drove them to relocate to a region that offered a better climate and nutrient base for both people and animals.

Attila was the chosen leader of these peoples. It is a recorded fact that Attila had been instructed in Latin and Gothic. That little gem flies in the face of the assertion that the Huns, like their neighbors, were uncivilized barbarians who were capable only of raiding and robbing.

The Roman Empire had wide and varied relations with all its neighbors and with all who posed either benefits or threats to them. These relations were carefully managed and recorded. Consequently, we have a clear accounting of diplomatic and trade relations between the Huns and Romans. From these records, we see that the Huns were considered highly competent traders, communicators, and negotiators. It can be fairly certain that Attila

was a key player in these gatherings, or at a minimum, directed his representatives.

Where did these negotiations and relations go wrong?

The Huns were never completely trusted because they refused to embrace Christianity, which became established in the Empire from the time of Constantine. The Burgundians and Goths who did convert achieved a measure of respectability. Sharing the Empire's values and beliefs was the first step towards "civilization." The Huns did, though, have support with the army rank and file. Many Roman military officers favored working with the Huns over certain Roman legions.

The other issue was business. There were formal agreements in place between the Empire and the Huns, but not everyone was happy with those arrangements.

Roman contracts were authored and approved by senior officials. Not all elements of Roman society supported those accords. Higher-ups in both the military and civilian domains were offended by Attila's favor at court, and the bounty paid to him every year.

While the level of gold payments made to Attila was no burden to the Empire, the idea that barbarians would be paid to stay away signified a dramatic policy change for the Empire. Formerly, Rome had enforced obedience and control by its legions; now it was paying people who should be subjects to not be a bother.

In 439 AD, the trade and protection agreement between the Huns and Rome brought an annual payment of 700 pounds of gold. By 447, the Huns were receiving 2,100 pounds of gold annually. It was far cheaper for Rome to pay Attila and have the Huns as a buffer state than to fight continual wars on

From all appearances, Attila seems to have been a great leader. He brought together peoples of diverse backgrounds, talents, and cultures

the very long northern frontier. Attila and the Huns had become the 'Danube Defense.' This was very important given that Rome had far greater threats to the east and west, and the capability of the Roman legions was becoming lesser and lesser with each passing year.

Attila was known to have had an unflinching passion for building his own empire. It would seem an unavoidable conclusion that his ambition and his competence, combined with the Empire's vulnerability, would have caused him to take the Roman Empire and make it his own. But he made no such attempt. That is another telling fact as to the strength and competence of this alleged "barbarian."

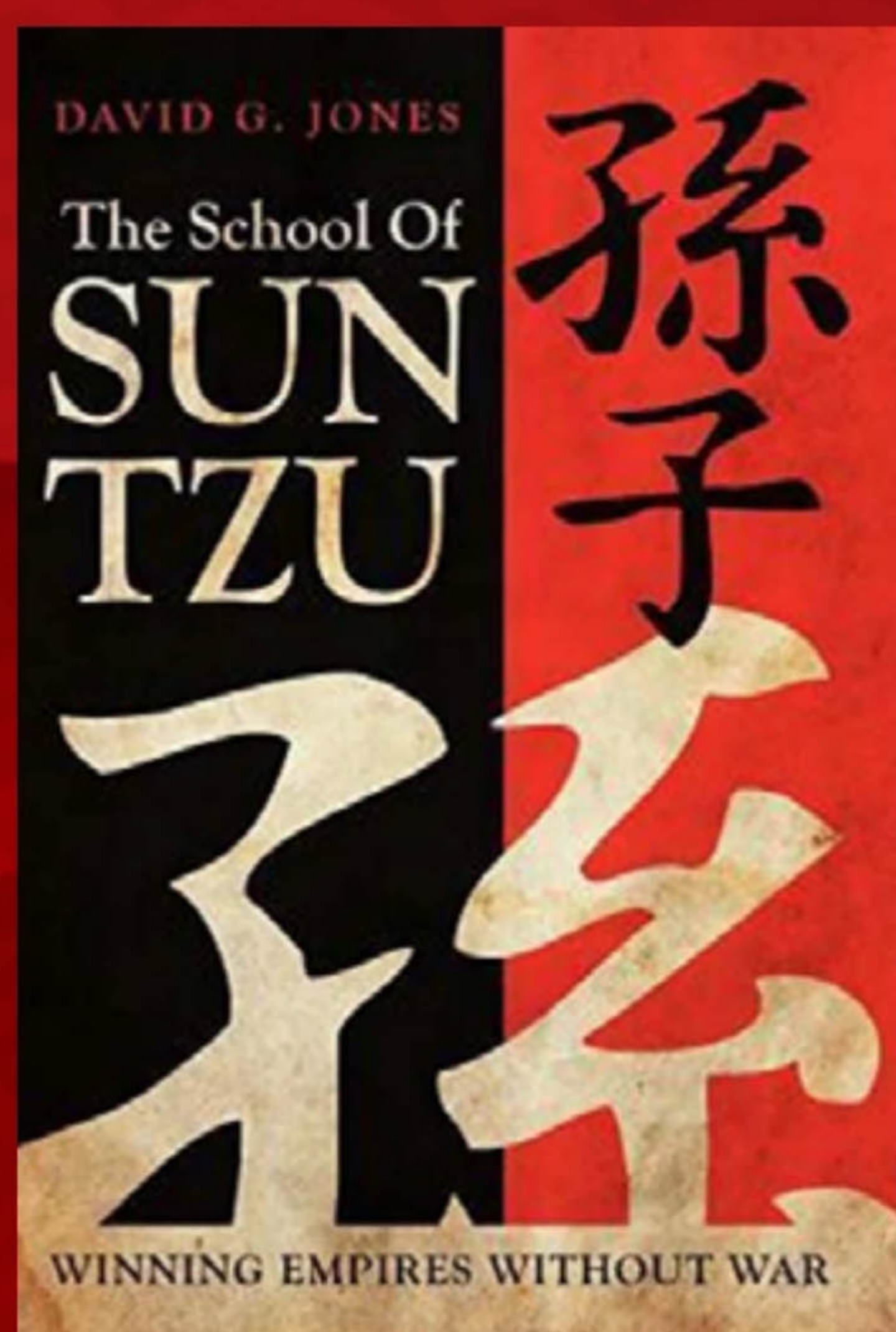
What was Attila's legacy?

From all appearances, Attila seems to have been a great leader. He brought together peoples of diverse backgrounds, talents, and cultures. He established a cultural community and from all we can gather, ensured comfort and safety for his people. He built a dynasty, and while he was not able to create a lasting empire of his own, he was able to help in the continuance of the Roman one. In this case, Attila's greatest contribution to the world might have been in what he did not do. He did not bring the Roman Empire to an end; he left the Empire to do that to itself.

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Atyla rex - King Attila,
Tamás Tulipán, 2019



The School of Sun Tzu: Winning Empires Without War

In *The School of Sun Tzu*, author David G. Jones offers a voyage of discovery into the world of competition and conflict. His book presents fresh thought on how issue management without conflict can be applied in today's complex world. Fusing history, politics, philosophy, and motivational theory, Jones challenges not only conventional wisdom regarding Sun Tzu and Lao Tzu, but even some generally accepted aspects of Chinese history. It offers enlightening insights into a methodology as valid today for relationship management as it was centuries ago.

ISBN-10: B079K3TDYR



GENGHIS KHAN

Finally, let's look at Genghis Khan (1162 –1227 AD) – another “ruffian” according to many Western histories - but a man revered still in Mongolia. What is your opinion of him?

Sources in Wikipedia describe him as ‘genocidal, guilty of conducting slaughters’ and ‘large scale massacres of civilian populations’.

In my view, Genghis Khan was a really quite amazing nation-builder (though perhaps it would be better to call him a cultural consolidator). In addition, he was an important developer of learning, commerce, and trade, and may well have advanced the state of Asia and Europe by centuries.

This ‘uncivilized barbarian’ built the greatest empire the world has ever seen. It extended to Europe, to the Middle East, and into Russia, India, and China. Genghis Khan’s colonization achieved wonders in a very short time. He literally started with nothing – he was a peasant - and liberated hundreds of towns, cities, and regions from plutocratic rule. He freed millions from dynasties that held the common people in utter poverty and subjugation. And he did all this with a simple rule: “if you willingly join our movement you can live in safety and freedom. You can share in a trade and monetary system that extends from central China to the Mediterranean. If you refuse to join us, or worse, if you betray us, we will destroy you.” Most of the Khan’s targets threw down their arms and opened their gates when they saw him coming. A few refused. They regretted it.

Genghis Khan brought much of Eurasia out of a time of isolation, confusion, poverty, and fear. Invention and what one might call ‘progress’ were almost unknown. Knowledge of medicine, art, architecture, construction, and transportation was very limited.

The Great Khan’s very simple (almost pagan) religious beliefs were based on harmony. His governance rules for the empire were astounding. His ability to work with existing institutions - such as the Silk Route - was unprecedented. When Genghis Khan occupied a sovereign nation, his appointed representatives bonded with the local cultures; and in fact, many were assimilated by those cultures. He loved the law and the fair administration of justice. He believed strongly in meritocracy. Genghis Khan enforced a rigorous policy of religious, cultural, and lingual tolerance.

What happened to his impressive empire?

Much of what Genghis Khan developed did not last beyond his life. He had delegated regional authority to his daughters and other leading Mongolian women.





Painting of Genghis and Jelme, general and close companion of the Khan

There is, in history, only one side to the story - it is called the truth

The tendency for these regional leaders (and potential successors) to identify more with their locality than the Mongolian steppes was a strength, but it also worked against binding the empire together.

The regional leaders (regions being small empires in themselves) were more competitive than cooperative. That competition extended to fierce rivalry to succeed the Great Khan. And given the process for becoming Great Khan was mired in protocol and tradition, it was a near-impossible challenge to gain consensus. These factors conspired to end the Mongolian empire.

Do you want to conclude with some observations about history - and truth?

My suggestion here is not that one should dismiss the mainstream traditional histories; rather, it is not to be guided exclusively by

them. Nor am I suggesting there are two sides to every question. There is, in history, only one side to the story - it is called the truth. What are we to do? Students, teachers, and people in general need to examine evidence with a view to identifying inconsistencies and ambiguities. And while keeping one's own cultural myopic in check, look for unassailable facts.

Life and history are complex. There are many factors at work in all places and at all times. If you add the factors of passing time and changes in language and values, you have a maelstrom of confusion, conflict, and ambiguity.

Ask yourself for example: "What is a massacre?" Do we all, in general, understand today and agree what this highly charged term means? Has the meaning and application been constant over time? Who decided something was "a massacre"?



And if we are all able to agree on the answers to those questions, can we then address the more difficult questions. For example, was the massacre possibly appropriate? I mean, were the conditions - risks and benefits - such that a massacre was ordained as the proper thing to make happen for whatever reasons and ends? Who knows, and how can one know the answer to that?

The danger, I think, is in assuming what we have been told over the years by “experts” and others, is the truth; and also, in assuming that the eyes we see with today are appropriate for seeing and understanding what has gone on over the millennia. I do believe we today can do better on assessment and judgment. But even with that talent, would we then have the capability to evaluate behavior hundreds or thousands of years ago? ■

Hashshashin

During the late 11th century, an order of Nizari Ismailis was formed in Persia and Syria by a man called Hassan-i Sabbah. These were the notorious Order of Assassins or Hashshashin who captured many mountain fortresses and posed a threat to Sunni Seljuk authority in Persia. Perhaps the Hashshashin were most famous for the way they got rid of their opponents – through highly-skilled assassinations. In fact, the word ‘assassination’ originated from this order.

Legends say the name Hashshashin comes from Hassan’s use of hashish to drug his followers and create a habit that would leave them willing to carry out his every demand in exchange for more drugs. However, it is more likely the term comes from a translation of the words ‘outcasts’ or ‘rabble’, which was applied by anti-Ismaili historians to the Syrian and Persian Ismailis.

One of the most famous victims of the Hashshashins was Conrad of Montferrat, the *de facto* King of Jerusalem at the end of the 12th century. Conrad was murdered while strolling in the courtyard of the city of Tyre with an entourage of knights. Two Hashshashins disguised as Christian monks walked towards the center of the courtyard, stabbed Conrad twice, killing him. Whilst it is unknown who hired these Hashshashins, it has been commonly claimed that Richard the Lionheart and Henry of Champagne were responsible.

The powerful Muslim leader, Saladin, was also attacked by the Hashshashins but survived two attempts on his life. Nevertheless, this placed him in a heightened state of paranoia and, fearful for his life, he eventually settled a truce with them.

THE NOTORIOUS ORDER TRAINED TO KILL KINGS

|| BY WU MINGREN

Nevertheless, the Hashshashins were not invincible. In 1260 AD, four of their fortresses surrendered to invading Mongols. The Mongol victory was short-lived, however, as they were defeated by the Mamelukes, an army of slaves, in the same year. Once the Mongols were expelled from Syria, the Hashshashins took back control. Ten years later, the Mamelukes under

their sultan, Baibars, took control of Masyaf castle, the Hashshashin headquarters.

Sources that would have been able to tell history from the Hashshashin’s point of view were completely destroyed in the conquest. As a result, we are left with a somewhat romanticized view of this order, perhaps best seen in the *Assassin’s Creed* video game series.■



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MAD, BAD & DANGEROUS

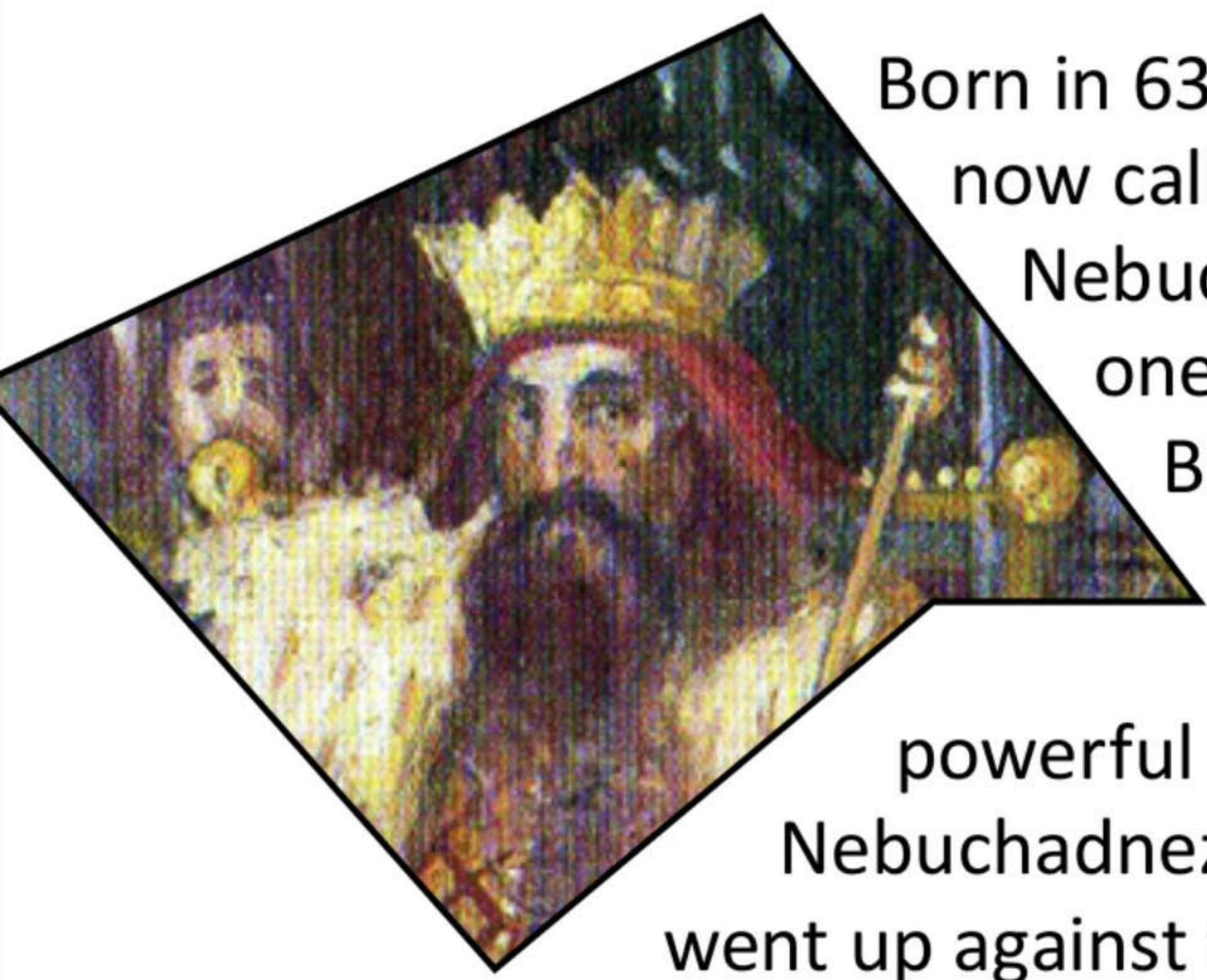
OUTRAGEOUS EMPERORS AND MAD MONARCHS

|| BY JOANNA GILLAN

Our understanding and treatment of mental illness have come a long way over the centuries – and it's just as well! In medieval times, people suffering a bout of 'melancholia' or those deemed 'mad' were seen as a great embarrassment to their families and were routinely locked away, hastily removed from the public eye. But what happens when that person is the most powerful person in the country? As history will show us, handling a 'mad monarch' was a dangerous, difficult, and risky business!



NEBUCHADNEZZAR II

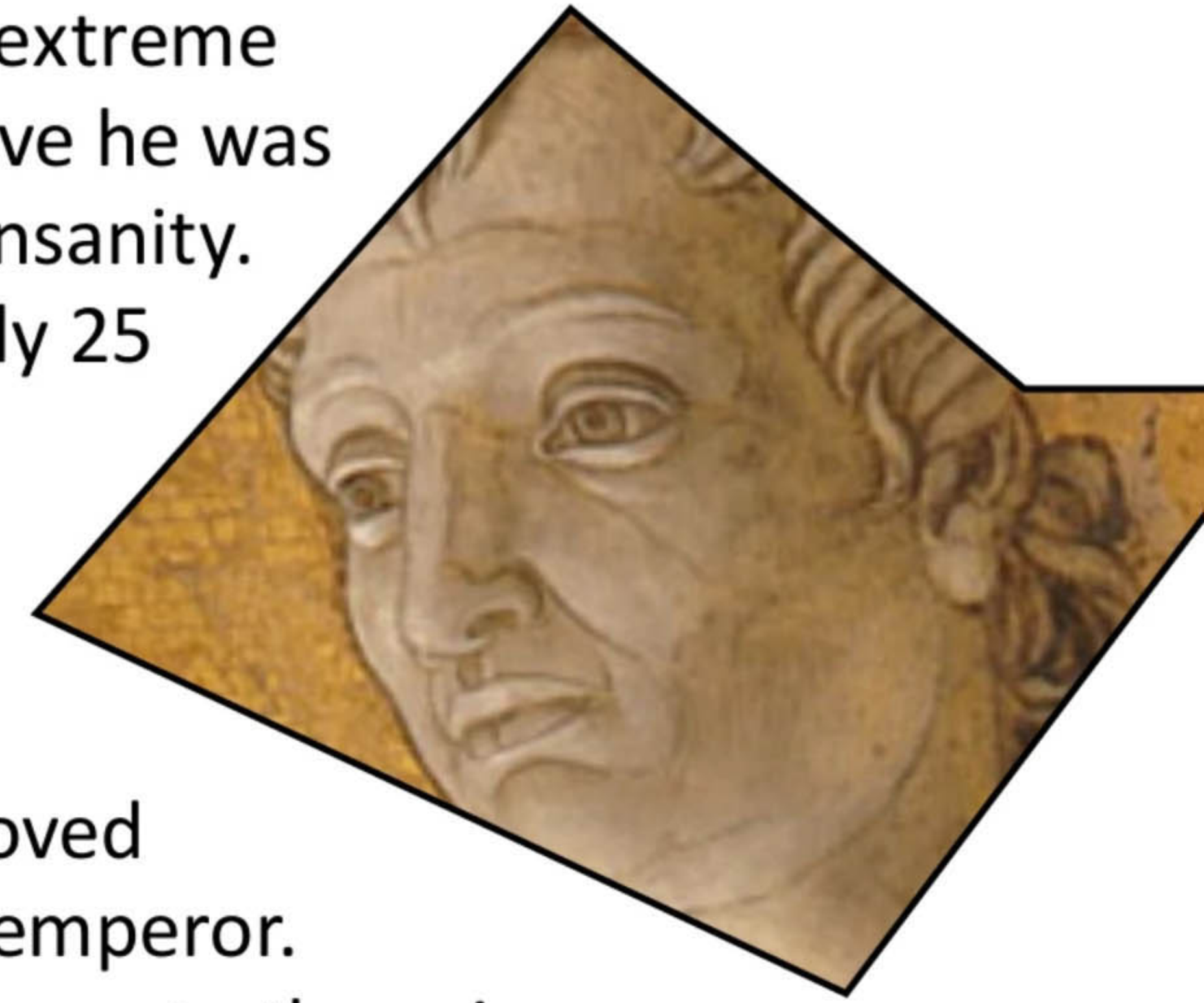


Born in 634 BC in what is now called Neo-Babylonia, Nebuchadnezzar II became one of the greatest Babylonian kings. In his quest to make Babylon the most powerful city-state in the east, Nebuchadnezzar and his armies went up against the Egyptians and the Assyrians, defeating both. He successfully managed to gain control of all the trade routes in Mesopotamia, from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean, by subduing the Syrians and Palestinians. Although Nebuchadnezzar's military and political accomplishments were great, he appeared to have suffered a period of insanity, which is described in the Bible. According to Daniel 4:25, Nebuchadnezzar had a disturbing dream, which his interpreter told him meant, "You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth." According to the biblical text, this prophecy was fulfilled: "All these things happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months after the dream... Nebuchadnezzar was forced to go away from people. He began eating grass like an ox. He became wet from dew. His hair grew long like the feathers of an eagle, and his nails grew long like the claws of a bird. Then at the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up toward heaven, and I was in my right mind again". The Babylonian king's insanity was said to last seven years. Incredibly, there exists a term that describes Nebuchadnezzar's condition – boanthropy is a psychological disorder in which the sufferer believes he is a cow or ox!

7TH CENTURY BC - BABYLON

CALIGULA

Caligula's reign from 37-41 AD was filled with murder and debauchery, to levels that even his infamous nephew Nero could not reach. In the latter years of his life, Caligula's behavior became so outlandish and extreme that many believe he was suffering from insanity. Caligula was only 25 years old when he became the emperor of Rome. At first, he was a loved and welcomed emperor. He granted bonuses to those in the military, eliminated unfair taxes, and freed those who had been unjustly imprisoned. He also hosted lavish chariot races, gladiator shows, and plays, to the delight of Roman citizens. However, a few short months after Caligula became emperor, he became seriously ill. Although he recovered from his illness, it was a turning point in Caligula's mental state, and he began to unravel. One of Caligula's most egregious acts was to declare himself a living god. He ordered the construction of a bridge between his palace and the Temple of Jupiter so that he could meet with the deity. He also began appearing in public dressed as various gods and demigods such as Hercules, Mercury, Venus, and Apollo. Caligula had the heads removed from various statues of gods and replaced with his own in temples. And then there was his horse, Incitatus... It is said that the emperor had such a fondness for the animal that he gave it its own house, complete with a marble stall and ivory manger. The oddest part of the tale is that Caligula apparently had plans to make Incitatus a consul, one of the highest political positions of the Roman Republic! On January 24, 41 AD a group of guards attacked Caligula after a sporting event. He was stabbed more than 30 times and killed.



1ST CENTURY AD - ROME

KING CHARLES VI

Charles VI was the King of France for 42 years from 1380 until his death in 1422 AD. His reign started off well. After he took power at the age of 21, the economic and political situation in the country improved and Charles came to be known as "Charles the Beloved". But by his mid-20s, Charles started to experience bouts of psychosis. One of his most famous episodes occurred at the age of 32, in which it's recorded that Charles appeared to be in a "fever" and killed four of his own knights in a frenzy, before attacking his brother Louis of Orleans. From then on, Charles suffered from repeated episodes of insanity which became progressively worse, until the "Beloved" king came to be known as "Charles the Mad". He claimed he was Saint George and lost recognition of his own wife and children. He was known to run wildly through the palace corridors and, in 1405, refused to bathe or change his clothes for five months. One of his more bizarre delusions was that he was made of glass and reportedly had iron rods sewn into his clothes to prevent himself from shattering. The term "glass delusion" was eventually coined for this condition. Despite his fragile mental state, Charles VI continued to rule France until his death, but not before his mental state had had a devastating effect on his kingdom, which became crippled by civil war, power struggles, and endless conflicts with England as part of the Hundred Years' War. His death in 1422 was largely a relief for all concerned.



Glass

The Glass Delusion

The "glass delusion" was a psychiatric malady in which people believed they were made of glass and thus at risk of shattering. It was first recorded in medical encyclopedias of the Middle Ages and was known to afflict a long tradition of royals, nobles, and scholars, before virtually dying out in the late 19th century. Males with the condition seem to have had a particular bias towards glass buttocks, believing they would shatter if they sat down unless they had a pillow strapped to their behinds.

Around the time the glass delusion appeared, clear glass was a new material and was seen as quite magical and mysterious. Contemporary psychologists speculate that believing one was made of glass was a way of expressing how fragile and exposed they felt in their public positions. Interestingly, glass delusions were replaced by 'cement delusions' in the 19th century when cement became the dominant construction material of the day. Today, modern-day delusions tend to involve technology, such as microchips, transmitters, or computers.

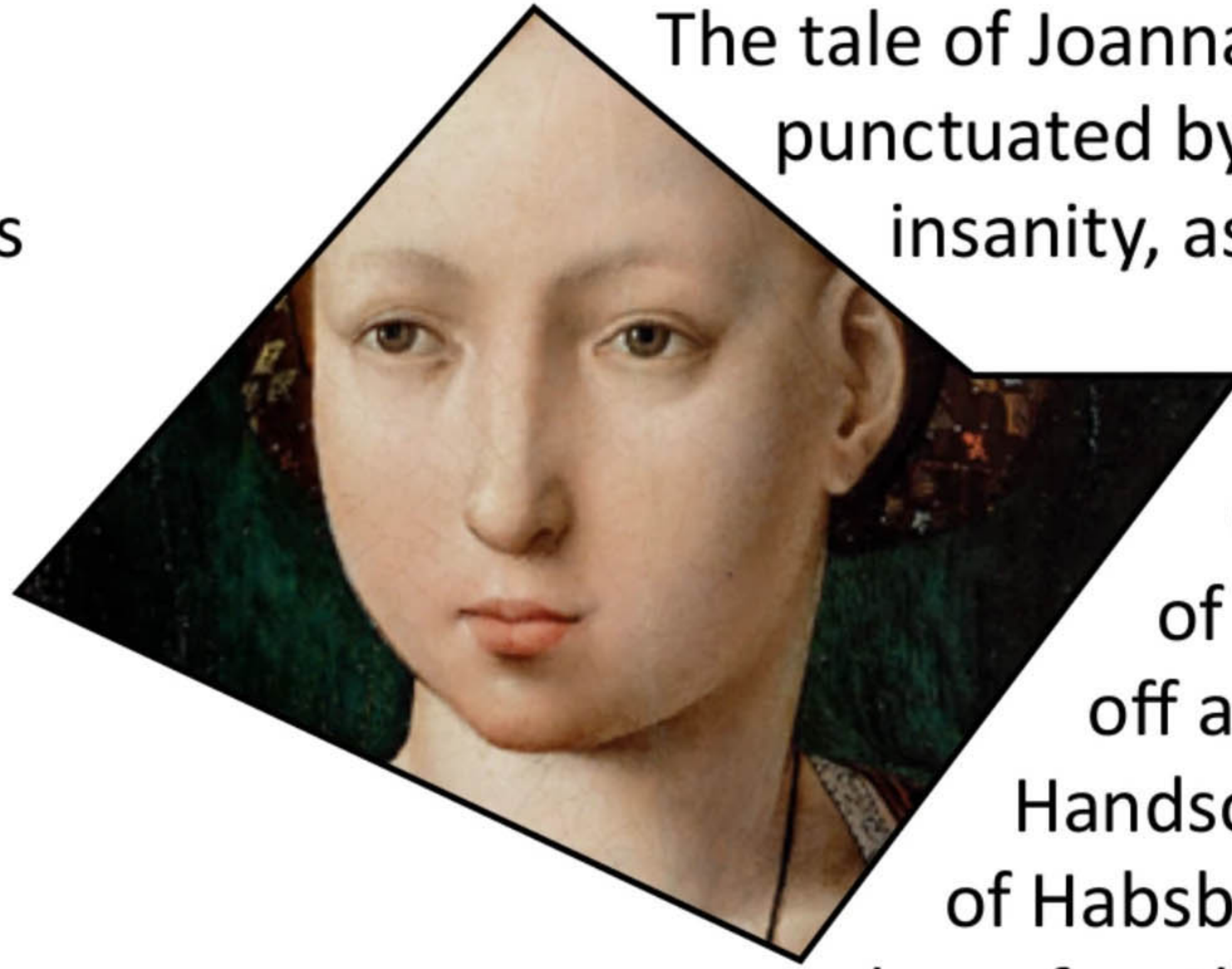
KING HENRY VI



Henry VI, born 1421 AD, was crowned King of England before his first birthday and held the throne until 1461. Ruling during the turbulent time of the Hundred Years' War, in which his uncle Charles VII contested his claim to the French throne, Henry VI's

reign was never an easy one, especially for a person described as shy, passive, and averse to warfare and violence. It was upon hearing of England's defeat during a battle in Bordeaux in 1453, leaving Calais as England's last remaining territory in France, that Henry VI suffered a complete mental breakdown. It left him in a virtually catatonic state for more than a year. He sat in his room day in, day out, slumped like a rag doll in his chair, even failing to respond to the birth of his son and heir, Edward. No one knew if or when he may recover. In his unpublished biography of the king, K.R.J. Tattersall writes: "The King fell into an inertia; a torpor from which he could not be roused. [...] At Westminster, the Council carried on the government in the King's name as if nothing had happened, but they were not going to be able so to continue if the King's state did not soon improve." Henry did recover, albeit temporarily, and was reportedly astonished to hear his wife had given birth to a son. His condition worsened again in 1456, leaving him in a state of lethargy punctuated by a routine of religious devotions. King Henry VI was eventually deposed by Yorkist forces in 1461 and exiled. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1471. On the day that Edward IV of York returned to London in triumph, Henry VI was found murdered.

JOANNA OF CASTILE



The tale of Joanna of Castile is a tragic one, punctuated by periods of so-called insanity, as well as many years of confinement. The daughter of Queen Isabella I of Castile and King Ferdinand II of Aragon, Joanna was married off at the age of 16 to Philip the Handsome, Archduke of the House of Habsburg. Although Joanna was born fourth in line to the throne, a

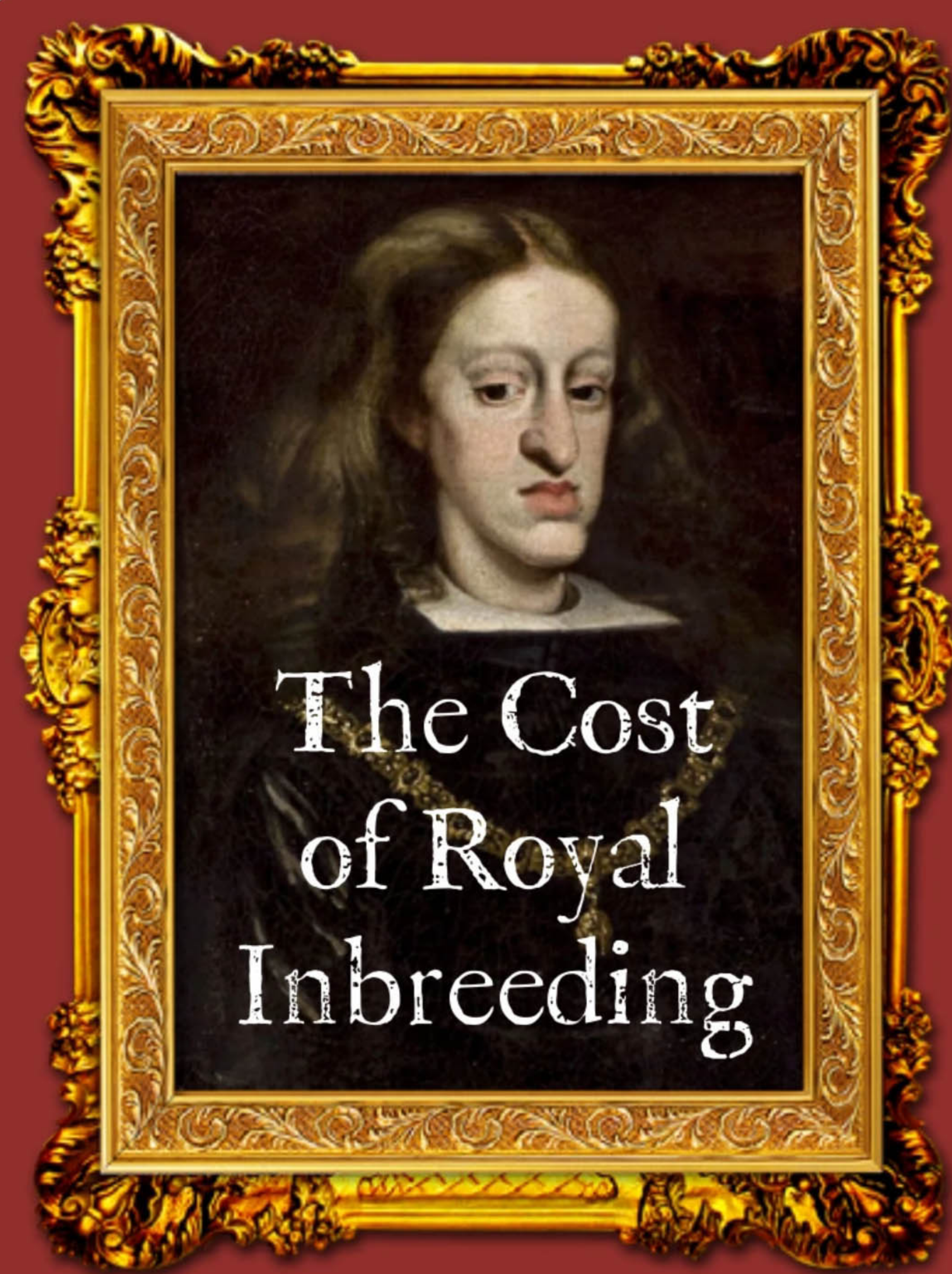
series of deaths in her family made her the heir presumptive to the crowns of Castile and Aragon, and when her mother, Queen Isabella, died in 1504, Joanna became Queen of Castile. However, she had little effect on national policy during her reign as she was declared insane and imprisoned under the orders of her father, who ruled as regent until his death in 1516. It is said that Joanna's mental instability began after the sudden death of her beloved husband in 1506. Historical records state that 'Juana la Loca' (Spanish for "Joanna the Mad") traveled through Granada for eight months with her husband's coffin and was rumored to kiss and caress the corpse. Some historians suggest she may have suffered from melancholia, psychosis, or schizophrenia. However, the claims of Joanna's mental illness as propagated during her lifetime remain controversial. Whether she was really insane or simply a victim of political power struggles may never be known. Her torment did not end with the death of her father in 1516. Upon his passing, Joanna and her teenage son Charles were made co-monarchs of Aragon. However, Charles ensured his domination and throne by having his mother confined for the rest of her life in the now-demolished Royal Palace in Tordesillas, Castile. Charles wrote to her caretakers: "It seems to me that the best and most suitable thing for you to do is to make sure that no person speaks with Her Majesty, for no good could come from it". Joanna died in 1555, at the age of 75, in her place of confinement.

EMPEROR JIAJING

In 1521 AD, Zhu Houcong succeeded his cousin, the Zhengde Emperor, as the 12th Emperor of the Ming Dynasty and adopted the regal name Jiajing, which meant 'admirable tranquility', but he was far from tranquil.



Jiajing dabbled in Taoism and became obsessed with obtaining the legendary elixir of immortality. The mad emperor believed that collecting the menstrual blood of female virgins and using it to make a substance called 'red lead', would give him powers that would enable him to live forever. Numerous girls aged 13-14 were kept for the production of this vile concoction and were fed only mulberry leaves and rainwater, as the Emperor believed this would keep his substance pure. The young women were beaten and starved and if they became ill they were tossed away. His concubines were also violently beaten into submission so they would passively cater to his every sexual whim. However, 16 of his ill-treated concubines banded together in 1542 to plot the murder of this sadistic ruler. One evening, the women snuck into his bedchamber and held down the emperor while one concubine tried to strangle him with a ribbon from her hair. When this failed, they tied a silk curtain cord around his neck but unfortunately tied the wrong kind of knot and were not able to tighten the noose to finish the job. One of the conspirators panicked and reported the assassination attempt to the Empress. As the emperor was unconscious until the next afternoon, the Empress took matters into her own hand, and had the palace women executed by 'slow-slicing', known also as 'death by a thousand cuts'. The Jiajing Emperor died in 1567 at the age of 59. It has been widely speculated that he succumbed to the toxic mercury contained in the 'elixirs of immortality' that he had been ingesting over his lifetime.



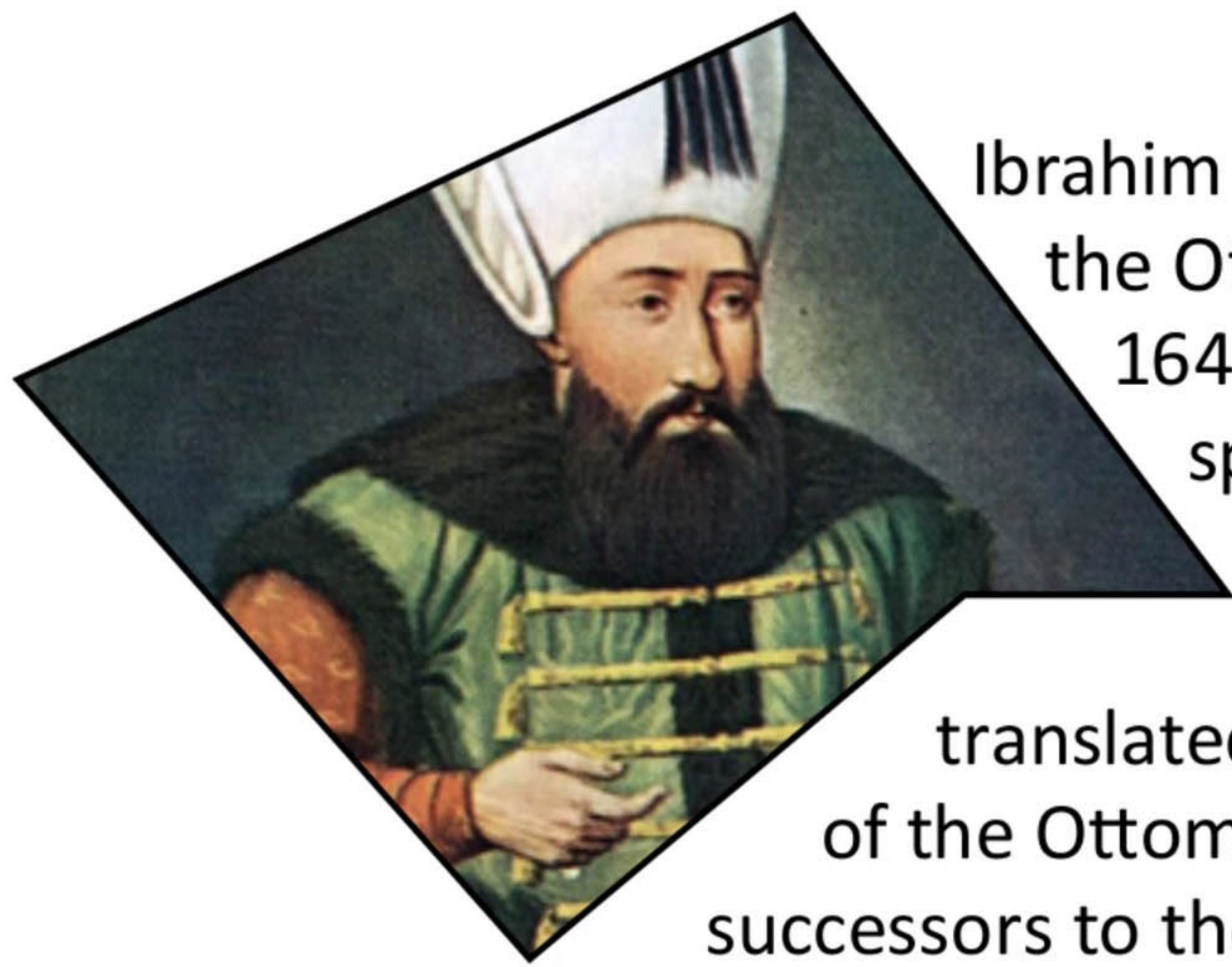
The House of Habsburg was one of the most influential royal houses of Europe. They held the throne of the Holy Roman Empire from 1438 AD until 1740 AD, when it became extinct in the male line.

The Habsburgs sought to consolidate their power through strategic marriages between blood relations. This resulted in a cumulatively deleterious effect on their gene pool. As a result, many of the Habsburg royals displayed distinct facial deformities linked to generations of inbreeding, such as sharply jutting jaws, extended chins, large noses with humps, and bulbous lower lips.

The gene pool eventually became so small that the last of the Spanish Habsburgs, Charles II, who was disabled from birth, possessed a genome comparable to a child born to a brother and sister. Charles II was infertile and never able to produce an heir. Hence, when he died, the royal line died with him.

Pictured above: Charles II of Spain

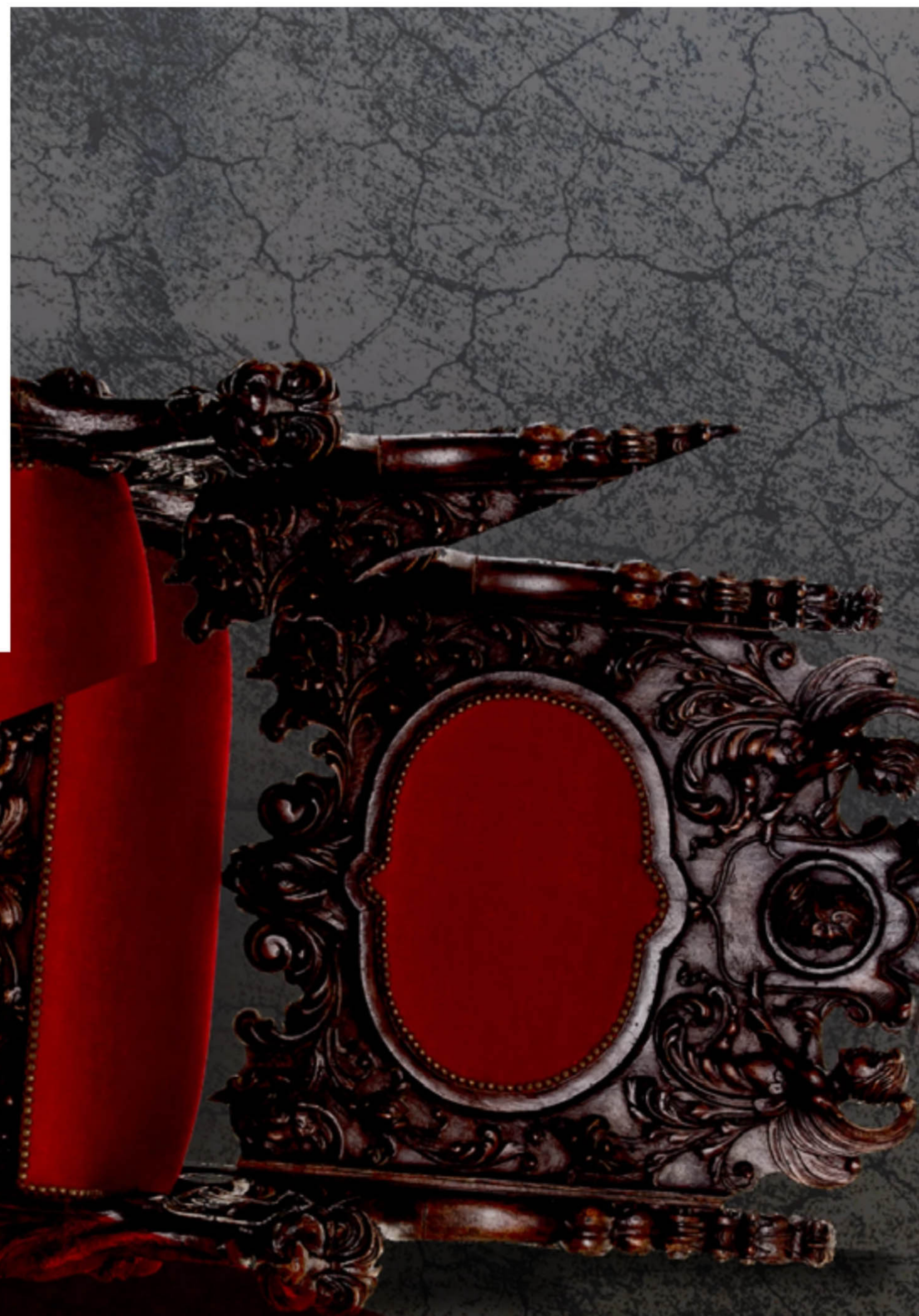
IBRAHIM I



Ibrahim was the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1640 to 1648 AD. He spent his early life in the confinement of the Kafes (literally translated to “cages”), part of the Ottoman Palace where successors to the throne were kept under a form of house arrest and under close surveillance by palace guards. Four of his brothers had already been executed by his brother Murad IV, who was Sultan 1623 – 1640, and Ibrahim lived in fear that he would be next. After Murad’s death, Ibrahim was the sole surviving prince and was asked to assume the Sultanate, but Ibrahim was convinced Murad was still alive and plotting to trap him. He finally assumed the throne after a personal examination of his brother’s dead body. From his early 20s, Ibrahim was plagued by recurring headaches and attacks of physical and mental weakness. The Empire was kept relatively stable by his regent mother Kosem Sultan, who encouraged her son to distract himself with harem girls so that she could assume power. Her plan worked. Ibrahim lived an extravagant lifestyle characterized by over-spending on luxurious goods – he ordered his entire palace to be carpeted in fur! – and

endless romps with palace concubines. Ibrahim’s mental condition didn’t go unnoticed and soon he came to be known as “Ibrahim the Mad”. According to historical anecdotes, Ibrahim had a harem of 280 women and would, on occasion, sleep with over 20 concubines in a single day. In one of the most shocking accounts of Ibrahim’s madness, he was said to have had his entire harem drowned based on rumors of disloyalty. One must be wary though of the difference between historical fact and political propaganda! Eventually, Ibrahim imposed new taxes to fund his opulent lifestyle, causing mass discontent with his rule. The “Mad Sultan” was deposed in 1648 and 10 days after his deposition, Ibrahim was murdered. ■

17TH CENTURY - OTTOMAN EMPIRE





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The Tomb of Cyrus

Cyrus II of Persia, popularly known as Cyrus the Great, was the founder of the Achaemenid Empire, ruling the first Persian Empire from 559-530 BC. Under his rule, the empire conquered most of Western Asia and much of Central Asia. Lying just a couple of miles from the palaces of Pasargadae, the former capital of the Empire, in Iran, sits a monumental tomb attributed to the famous Persian monarch. While there is no firm evidence that the tomb was Cyrus's, historical sources suggest it was. Arrian, writing in the second century AD, recorded that Alexander the Great commanded Aristobulus, one of his warriors, to enter the tomb. Inside he found a golden bed, ornaments with precious stones, and a golden sarcophagus with the inscription in Old Persian: "Passer-by, I am Cyrus, who gave the Persians an empire, and was king of Asia. Grudge me not therefore this monument."

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DAMNATIO MEMORIAE

THE PUNISHMENT OF NON-EXISTENCE

|| BY MARTINI FISHER

Alexander Severus (208-235 AD) The head and bust were mutilated during Antiquity, the memory of the outlawed emperor was to be extinguished

The ancient Roman decree of *damnatio memoriae* ("damnation of one's memory") was a mark of great disgrace and a punishment, and deemed worse than execution for an ancient Roman. The object of the punishment was to cancel every trace of the condemned person from the life of Rome as if they had never existed. The methods involved but were not limited to, scratching the name of the condemned person from inscriptions, abusing the statues of the person, mutilating or painting over their likeness, and destroying the results of their labor such as writings, buildings and so on.

Damnatio memoriae was normally reserved for those such as Senators and Emperors whose acts did not reflect well on Rome as a whole, or those

who committed treason or brutality which could put Rome in danger or disgrace. However, there were also many instances where emperors' memories were censured because of conflicts with the senatorial aristocracy, with rival claimants to imperial power or with the army, without having much to do with the Roman public.

Among those who suffered *damnatio memoriae* in the Julian period were Lucius Aelius Sejanus, who had conspired against Emperor Tiberius in 31 AD, Cnaeus Calpurnius Piso, a senator accused of treason as well as the murder of the Tiberius' nephew and heir, and Germanicus, who was also a victim of this practice. Although the Senate could vote for a condemnation of a person's memory, the Emperor had the right to veto.

For instance, when the Senate wanted to condemn the memory of Caligula, the Emperor Claudius prevented this. Nero was declared an enemy of the state by the Senate but then was given an enormous funeral honoring him after his death by Vitellius.

This practice was not exclusive to men in ancient Rome. The images of condemned women were also subjected to the same treatment. However, the women would either be condemned jointly with their male family members or, more frequently, as a consequence of controversies with the reigning emperor.

Some examples include Agrippina the Elder for her feud with the Emperor Tiberius, and Claudia Livilla for assisting Sejanus in his attempt to overthrow Tiberius and for poisoning her husband, Tiberius' son, Drusus the Younger.

THE DAMNATION OF PISO

Cnaeus Calpurnius Piso was a member of a distinguished family who had held political offices in Rome since the late third century BC. He had been appointed governor of Syria in 17 AD in close association with Emperor Tiberius' nephew and heir, Germanicus, to the East. After the death of Germanicus, Piso was tried for treason and suspicion of the murder of Germanicus on his return to Rome. He was forced to commit suicide and his memory was disgraced.

The inscription of the *Senatus Consultum de Cnaeo Pisone patre* ("The Senate's Discussion on Cnaeus Piso Pater") offers many

new insights into the legal and social life under Emperor Tiberius. Multiple copies were found within what was the Roman province of Baetica. This decree of the Senate contains a summary of the Senate's judgments concerning Piso, his family members and accomplices in his crimes. The punishments imposed on Piso fall into six categories:

No women were allowed to mourn Piso's death

This ruling would have affected the whole domus (household) of Piso, as well as his relatives and dependents in other households.

He was forced to commit suicide and his memory was disgraced

The act of mourning honored the man and marked his membership within his domus and the wider community. Therefore, this penalty denied Piso his recognition as a family member. In many cultures, including ancient Rome, mourning is also connected with the right to inherit or the actual act of inheritance itself. (One modern South East Asian culture, for example, requires the firstborn son to stand on his late father's grave, ask those who attend to forgive his father's transgressions, and swear an oath to settle any debts his father may have incurred in his lifetime.) By not allowing mourning for Piso, the Senate symbolically and practically stated that, although Piso had two sons and a brother who were alive at the time of his death, no one inherited from Piso, and no one was responsible for any of Piso's unsettled debts to society.

The reason that only women were mentioned in this decree as mourners demonstrates the extent to which mourning was an action performed by women in ancient Roman society. After the death of Augustus, for example, men were only required to mourn for a few days to not limit their life and occupations, while women would mourn for a year as if they were mourning their own father or husband. Therefore, the mourning of women could be used to symbolize the feelings of the whole family.

Both public and private portraits of Piso were destroyed

It's important to realize, especially for a man of Piso's rank, how many portraits of him there would have been in Rome at the time. He would have been represented by various kinds of portraits publicly and in private houses. Therefore, there would be a wide variety of images that were affected. These portraits could have been paid for by a number of different people, not only by family members – this would again eliminate him from societies beyond his own household. The Senate's ruling would not be limited to the city of Rome itself, even to Italy. Portraits in colonies or municipalities and those in private houses all over the Empire could be affected. No person or body is made responsible for this destruction, which may explain why in actual practice such bans were not complete and systematic and we can still see few images of a supposed condemned person to this day.

Continued next page

Roman Rulers Wiped from History

- ◆ **Caligula** (reign 37–41 AD) – Caligula was the first emperor to have his images purposely destroyed after his death. Marble portraits of Caligula were re-cut, dismantled or destroyed.
- ◆ **Domitian** (reign 54–68 AD) – Upon his death, the Senate passed *damnatio memoriae* on his memory: his coins and statues were melted, his arches were torn down and his name was erased from public records.
- ◆ **Geta** (reign 209–211 AD) – Geta was murdered by his brother Caracalla, who subsequently ordered a damnation on his memory. The Arcus Argentariorum is one of the clearest examples – Geta's image and name were erased from both the frieze and inscription.
- ◆ **Macrinus** (reign 217–218 AD) – Macrinus and his son Diadumenianus were executed and their heads sent as trophies to their successor, Elagabalus. They were both declared enemies of the state and all traces of them destroyed from public monuments and documents.
- ◆ **Elagabalus** (reign 218–222 AD) – Elagabalus suffered the same fate as his predecessor Macrinus. An over-sized statue of him as Hercules was re-carved with the face of his successor, Alexander Severus.

Rama, Wikimedia Commons, Cc-by-sa-2.0-fr



The family of the Calpurnii, by blood or marriage, were not allowed to display Piso's imago (wax masks) either at a funeral or in any atrium

The fact that these wax masks actually required a separate clause from the other images implies the unique character of these wax masks. This applies to any Calpurnius, whether called Piso or not, designed to ensure that Piso's imago really did not appear in public. Unlike the other images, there is no talk of actually destroying these images, only of not displaying them.

Piso's name was removed from the inscription on the statue of Germanicus

It is notable that Piso's name was



Opposite: Molded mask of a girl with funerary inscription from Roman Gaul

Left: Women played a major role in ancient Roman mourning

Below: Bust of Germanicus



ChrisO/Purchase 1912/CC BY SA 3.0

only erased from one statue base. Under the circumstances leading to his condemnation, it was impossible to have Piso's name on the base of a statue specifically built to honor Germanicus. We can assume that there were many other names recorded here, therefore it was impractical to re-carve a whole statue base to remove only one name. Here, erasure seems to be the last resort in cases where inscriptions could not be simply removed.

Piso's property was confiscated

Land which had been granted to Piso by the empire became imperial property again. All of Piso's assets were also confiscated by the empire, only to be given again by the empire to his descendants at a later date on

the condition that his eldest son Cnaeus should change his name. He was later to be known as Lucius.

The effect of the confiscation was also to break the continuity between the generations in this branch of the Calpurnii Pisones. Although the rest of Piso's property would be passed on to his descendants anyway, it would not come from himself as the head of the family. The confiscated property would become a gift from the Senate and the princeps to the beneficiaries through Piso's first born son, provided that he changed his name to no longer reflect Piso's relationship to himself and his family.

Any additions made by Piso to various private houses were to be

demolished under the supervision of a board of officials in charge of public property. It is assumed that the state would pay for the demolition work and it would be carried out by workers employed by the officials. This would only affect the additions made by Piso himself.

While numerous Roman figureheads, including Nero, Domitian, and Commodus, were victims of *damnatio memoriae*, they are still quite well-known today thanks to the survival of literary evidence. Perhaps *damnatio memoriae* was more effective on less important figures, though we will never know for certain because if the policy succeeded as intended, we would, of course, be unaware of their existence! ■



Nefertiti

The Lost Queen

|| By Joanna Gillan

Nefertiti was the chief consort of the Egyptian Pharaoh Akhenaten (formerly Amenhotep IV), who reigned from approximately 1353 to 1336 BC. Known as the Ruler of the Nile and Daughter of Gods, Nefertiti acquired unprecedented power and is believed to have held equal status to the pharaoh himself. Thanks to the discovery of the Nefertiti Bust, her face has become one of the most instantly recognizable images from antiquity. However, much controversy lingers about Nefertiti after the 12th regal year of Akhenaten, when her name suddenly vanishes from the pages of history.

Several theories have been put forward to explain her sudden disappearance from the historical record:

DAMNATIO MEMORIAE

Did Nefertiti fall from grace and suffer the Egyptian equivalent of a *'damnatio memoriae'*, having her name and image erased like her predecessor Hatshepsut, the controversial Queen who became King?

Some historians have suggested that Nefertiti may have fallen out of favor with Akhenaten because she could not produce a male heir (they had six daughters) and was possibly replaced by Kiya. Another theory suggests Nefertiti may have been disgraced for abandoning Akhenaten's religion



Pharaoh Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti, ca. 1352-1336 BC

The first example of *damnatio memoriae* in Egypt was the official act of erasing the cartouches and images of Akhenaten, ‘the Heretic King’, who had flipped Egypt’s traditional religion on its head by rejecting the pantheon of gods in favor of the worship of a single god, Aten. But old traditions die hard. In 2011, Hosni Mubarak was deposed after nearly 30 years as President of Egypt. After his deposition, the names of both Hosni and his wife were removed from all Egyptian monuments. The name of a Metro station in Cairo was even changed from Mubarak station to Al-Shohadaa (meaning ‘The Martyrs’).

of Aten and was banished. However, images of Nefertiti were found adoring Akhenaten’s sarcophagus and this indicates her continued importance to the pharaoh up to his death, refuting the idea that she fell out of favor.

DEATH

Another explanation for Nefertiti’s disappearance is that she died from the plague that swept through the area around the same period, or that she committed suicide after her daughter Mekitaten died during childbirth at the age of 13. A relief carving from the time shows Nefertiti and Akhenaten standing over their daughter’s body in mourning.

MARRIAGE

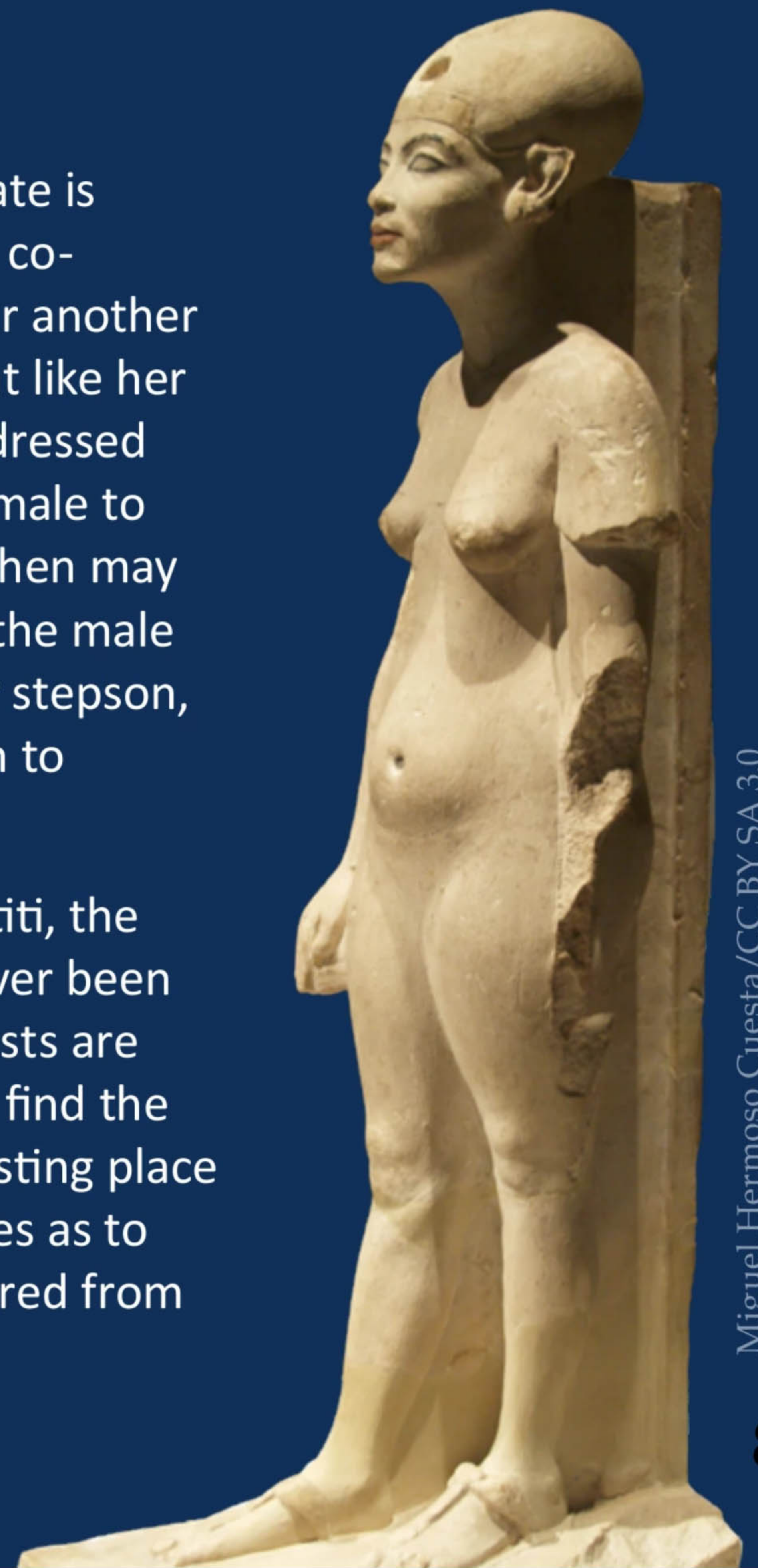
A stone tablet written during the reign of Akhenaten refers to an Egyptian queen attempting to save the throne by marrying a foreign king – could this queen be Nefertiti? The tablet was sent to the Hittites, requesting the Hittite king send a son to Egypt to marry the Egyptian queen. Records show the Hittite king sent his son, but he was

killed on his journey. The fate of the queen is not discussed.

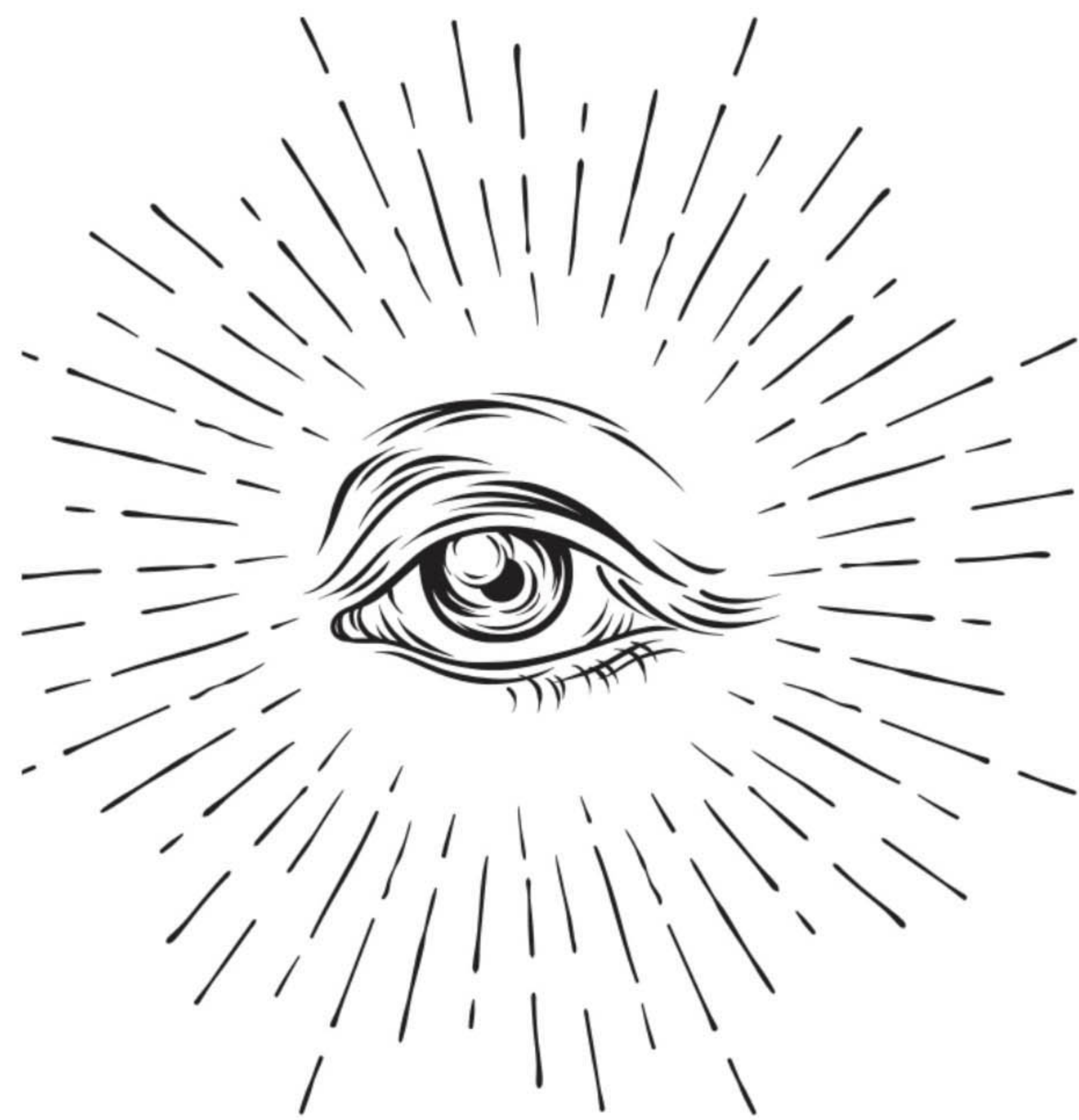
CO-REGENT

The most popular theory to date is that Nefertiti actually became co-regent to Akhenaten but under another name – Smenkhkare – and that like her predecessor Hatshepsut, she dressed and took on the persona of a male to be accepted as pharaoh. She then may have continued to rule under the male name of Smenkhkare until her stepson, Tutankhamun, was old enough to assume the throne.

To date, the mummy of Nefertiti, the iconic Egyptian queen, has never been conclusively found. Egyptologists are hopeful that they will one day find the famous queen and that her resting place and sarcophagus may give clues as to why she so suddenly disappeared from history. ■







THE ALL SEEING EYE OF PROVIDENCE

|| BY WU MINGREN

The Eye of Providence (also known as the all-seeing eye of God) is a well-known and popular symbol. This symbol has been used for centuries in both religious and secular contexts and therefore its representation can be found in many places.

For Americans, the Eye of Providence is most commonly seen on the reverse of the United States one-dollar bill. This design is in turn derived from the reverse of the Great Seal of the United States. The Eye of Providence has also been associated with the Freemasons; and thanks to films, such as the 2004 *National Treasure* starring Nicolas Cage, conspiracy theories linking the Freemasons with the founding of the United States have been popularized.

The Eye of Providence is commonly depicted as a single, realistic-looking eye within one or more additional elements: a triangle, a burst of light, clouds, or all three. The earliest known depiction of this symbol dates to the Renaissance. Nevertheless, eyes have had

a strong symbolic meaning in many cultures over the course of history.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN EYES

One of the most famous of these symbols is the Eye of Horus (known also as Wadjet, which means 'Whole One'), which was immensely popular among the ancient Egyptians. According to ancient Egyptian mythology, Horus lost his left eye during a battle with his uncle Seth. This eye was magically restored by the goddess Hathor, who is believed to have been either Horus' mother or wife. Thus, the Eye of Horus became a symbol of healing.

In another myth, Horus presented his eye to his father, Osiris, to help him rule the Underworld. Osiris ate the eye and he was restored to life. Thus, in this myth, the eye became a symbol of life and resurrection. These myths served to popularize the Eye of Horus as a protective symbol and therefore it was commonly made into protective amulets. Such amulets continue to be popular even today.



The ancient Egyptians had another symbol similar to the Eye of Horus, which is known as the Eye of Ra. Unlike the Eye of Horus, this was an aggressive symbol that focused on the destructive aspect of the god Ra. In one of the ancient Egyptian myths, Ra was becoming old and weak, which caused people to disrespect him. Ra was furious that they no longer stuck to laws and that they were making jokes at his expense. Therefore, he decided to punish mankind by sending the 'Eye of Ra' to destroy them.

The Eye of Ra was a goddess (different goddesses, including Hathor, Sekhmet, and Bast, are said to possess this title) sent to earth in the form of a lion, and she immediately began her slaughter of humanity. Seeing the scale of the destruction wrought by the goddess, Ra regretted his action and called his daughter to stop. The goddess, however, was in a bloodlust and paid no heed to her father's pleas. Ra, fearing that all of humanity would be wiped out if the goddess was allowed to continue on her rampage, devised a cunning plan. The god had 7000 jugs of beer mixed with pomegranate juice, which made the beer red, and he poured them in the fields around the Eye of Ra. As the goddess drank the 'blood' she became so drunk that she fell asleep and only woke up three days later with a terrible hangover. By this means, humanity was saved by Ra.



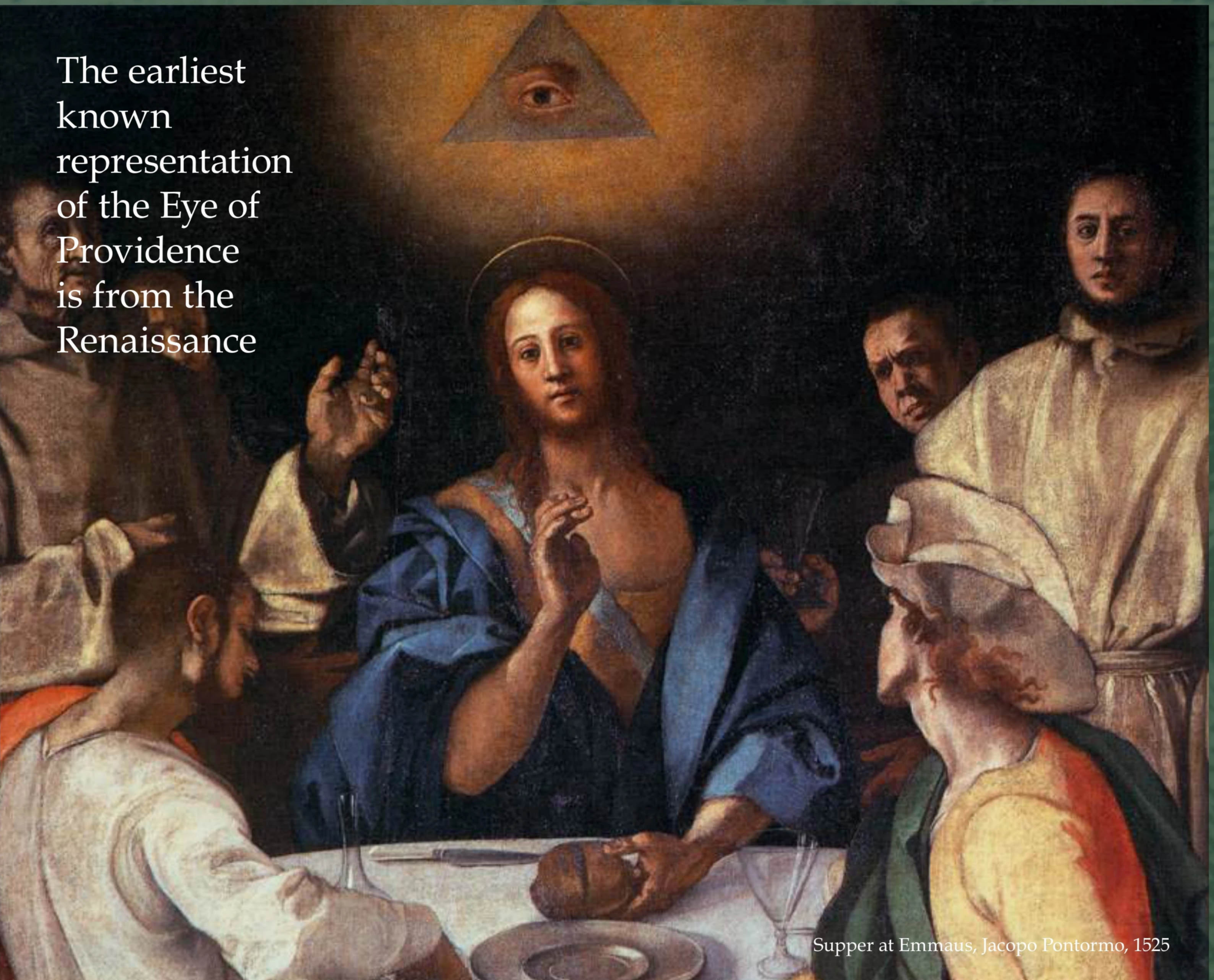
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THE BEGINNINGS OF THE EYE OF PROVIDENCE

Like the ancient Egyptian Eye of Horus and Eye of Ra, the Eye of Providence is also associated with the divine. As mentioned already, the earliest-known representation of the Eye of Providence is from the Renaissance. This representation is found in a 1525 painting called the *Supper at Emmaus* by the Italian painter Jacopo Pontormo. The subject matter of this painting is the second half of the 'Road to Emmaus Appearance' story found towards the end of the Gospel according to Luke.

In this story, which happens after Christ's resurrection, Jesus appears to two of his disciples who were on their way to a town called Emmaus. After reaching the town, Jesus stays with the two men to have supper with them - this is the scene painted by Pontormo. This painting was made for the Carthusians (a Catholic religious order also known as the Order of St Bruno) of the Certosa del Galluzzo, in the suburbs of Florence. Interestingly, a few of the monks were painted by Pontormo behind Christ, who is shown blessing the bread. Above the head of Christ is the Eye of Providence, which is meant to show that God was watching the entire event.

The earliest known representation of the Eye of Providence is from the Renaissance



Supper at Emmaus, Jacopo Pontormo, 1525

The depiction of the Eye of Providence on Pontormo's *Supper at Emmaus* shows that it started off as a Christian symbol. Within this context, the word 'providence' refers to 'divine guidance', specifically to that provided by the God of Christianity. Thus, in a way, the Eye of Providence is meant to represent a form of spiritual guidance that pious Christians ought to follow. The Eye of Providence may also be meant to represent the omnipresence, omnipotence, and omniscience of God.

In addition, the elements surrounding the eye take on a Christian meaning as well. For instance, the triangle is a clear reference to

the Holy Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The burst of light and clouds are meant to symbolize divinity, holiness, and God himself. As a matter of fact, these elements are also sometimes used when God is depicted in works of art, for instance, when He is represented by the Tetragrammaton, i.e. the name of God in Hebrew transliterated in the four letters, YHWH. Such depictions may be found on stained glass windows in Christian churches, like the abbey church of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, in Paris, where the Merovingian kings of Neustria were buried.

FREEMASONRY AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES

In time, the Eye of Providence was adopted by the Freemasons, who drew inspiration from the use of human organs to represent abstract concepts by ancient cultures. Thus, the open eye was meant to symbolize watchfulness, and the Eye of Providence is the eye of the Supreme Being (since by this time many no longer believed in the Christian God, but some other kind of divine or higher power out there). This was meant to represent the watchfulness and care of the divine for the universe.

In addition, this symbol was meant to remind the Freemasons to maintain their standards of morality, as they are being watched over by a higher force. Furthermore, the Eye of Providence may be regarded as a sign of spiritual illumination and revelation. In some instances, it is placed within or above the square and compasses, arguably the most recognizable symbol of the Freemasons.

One interpretation states that the square represents morality or virtue, whereas the compass represents boundaries or wisdom of conduct. Another interpretation of the symbol states that the square deals with matters concerning the earth and the body, while the compass deals with those of the heavens and the soul. Since the points of the compass are placed below the square, it is meant to signify that one is only dealing with the moral and political meanings of the symbol, but not their deeper philosophical and spiritual ones. Moreover, the intersection of the compass and square may be understood as denoting the intermingling between the divine and

the human, and that there is a spiritual dimension even in the most mundane aspects of life.



Numerous conspiracy theories have linked the Freemasons with the founding of the United States through the Eye of Providence. This symbol is also found on the reverse of the Great Seal of the United States. The seal (both its obverse and reverse) is also printed on the reverse of the United States one-dollar bill, and the symbol is therefore, quite literally, in most Americans' pockets.

One common conspiracy theory claims that the application of the Eye of Providence on the Great Seal was a way for the Freemasons to project their watchful power over the country. As already mentioned, the Freemasons saw the Eye of Providence as a symbol of the Supreme Being, rather than their own power, and that it was to remind them to uphold their standards of morality. Therefore, it is unlikely that they would have used it as a symbol of their own power.

A slight variation to this idea is that the American government is always watching its people. Defenders of this view maintain that the symbol merely conveys that God is watching over America and that the country was being created under his watchful eye. The phrase 'In God We Trust' on the reverse of the one-dollar bill is used as further evidence of the symbol's association with God, rather than with the American government.





Numerous conspiracy theories have linked the Freemasons with the founding of the United States through the Eye of Providence



THE GREAT SEAL

The Eye of Providence on the Great Seal of the United States is surrounded by a triangle and a burst of light (like the ones used in Christian art) and it is placed on the top of an unfinished pyramid. The design of the seal was finalized in 1782 and the description of the reverse, as found in Charles Thomson's (who was the Secretary of Congress) *Remarks and Explanation*, adopted by the Continental Congress (June 20, 1782) is "Reverse. The pyramid signifies Strength and Duration: The Eye over it & the Motto allude to the many signal interpositions of providence in favor of the American cause. The date underneath is that of the Declaration of Independence and the words under it signify the beginning of the New American Era, which commences from that date." Interestingly, while drawings of the obverse were made as soon as the design was adopted,

the first drawing of the reverse was only made four years later, in 1786. This was drawn by James Trenchard, an engraver from Philadelphia, for the October 1786 issue of the *Columbian Magazine*.

The second drawing of the reverse that we know of was made by Benson L. Lossing, an artist and historian, in 1856. The drawing was meant to accompany an article he had written on the Great Seal for the July 1856 issue of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*. Lossing made some changes to Trenchard's design and this second drawing has influenced all later realizations of Thomson's written description of 1782 (including the one on the reverse of the one-dollar bill, which follows almost exactly Lossing's design). This is except for the Great Seal Centennial Medal that was struck in 1882. The reverse of the medal followed Trenchard's design closely and it was the first realization of the

seal's reverse to be issued officially by the American government.

Incidentally, the Continental Congress was provided with a design for the Great Seal's reverse, in case it wanted to impress the back surfaces of wax pendant seals, which it had been using for treaties between 1815 and 1871. The back surfaces, however, were never impressed, and enthusiasm for cutting a die of the reverse gradually diminished. Therefore, not one reverse die has been cut to this day.

Trenchard's design of the Great Seal places the Eye of Providence atop an unfinished pyramid with 13 steps. This number is symbolic, as it represents the 13 original British colonies that formed the United States. The two mottos mentioned in Thomson's description are in Latin, and are as follows, *Annuet Coeptis* (meaning 'He [God] has favored our undertakings', and *Novus Ordo Seclorum* (meaning 'a new order



of the ages'). The former is placed over the Eye of Providence and the latter under the pyramid. The year of the Declaration of Independence, in the Roman numerals MDCCLXXVI (1776), is found on the bottom step of the pyramid. One of the changes made by Lossing to Trenchard's design was to replace the right Eye of Providence with a left one, and this has remained ever since. In addition, Lossing's pyramid, which is rather square, as opposed to Trenchard's elongated one, is given a deep perspective and the ground around it is filled with flowers and grass.

While the Eye of Providence as a symbol of a benevolent deity's watchfulness has been with us for three centuries, the ancient roots of this 'all-seeing eye' reflects mankind's millennia-old belief in a 'divine gaze' over humanity. ■



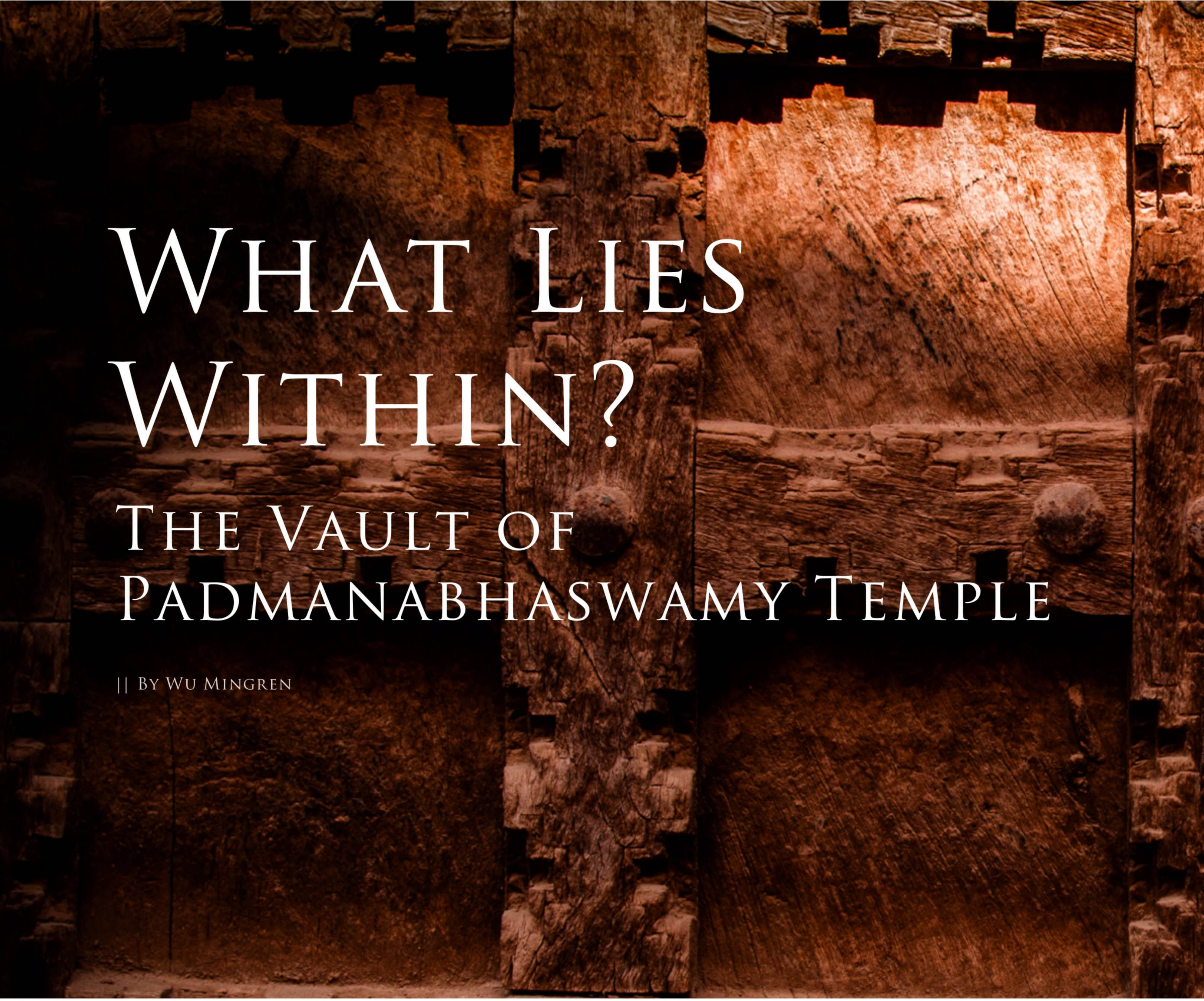
Castle of the 99 Towers

Moszna Castle is one of Poland's most loved monuments and is generally recognized as one of the most beautiful castles in the world. Often dubbed the "castle of the 99 towers", reflecting its number of turrets, the castle also boasts 365 rooms spread across 75,000 square feet. Its style is eclectic, combining three very distinct architectural styles – Baroque, Victorian Gothic, and Neo-Renaissance – reflecting the tastes of different owners over the centuries. According to local legend, the 17th-century castle was built on the site of a medieval monastery run by the Order of the Knights Templar, which went to ruin following the disbanding of the Templars in the 14th century. The discovery of some medieval cellars buried beneath the gardens of the castle gives some credence to this legend.

Moszna Castle.
Mike Mareen|AdobeStock







WHAT LIES WITHIN?

THE VAULT OF PADMANABHASWAMY TEMPLE

|| BY WU MINGREN

Ropes of gold several meters long, Napoleonic coins, Venetian jewelry, diamond belts, emeralds the size of ostrich eggs, and barrels of golden rice... these are just some of the treasures said to have been hidden within Padmanabhaswamy Temple. But insufferable dangers may also be lurking for those who dare to open the temple's mysterious sealed door.

The Padmanabhaswamy Temple is a Hindu temple situated in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, a province on the southwestern coast of India. The main deity that this temple is dedicated to is Vishnu, specifically in his *Anantha Shayanam* posture. In this position, the deity is depicted as being in the state of conscious cosmic slumber and is reclining on the body of the five-hooded serpent, *Adisheshan*.

Architecturally speaking, the temple is a fusion of the local Kerala style and the Dravidian

style commonly found in the neighboring province of Tamil Nadu. The most notable feature of the Padmanabhaswamy Temple, however, is its mysterious sealed door, which leads to Vault B, the contents of which have been speculated by many.

The word *Padmabha* means 'One emerging from the lotus' and is a reference to the god Brahma seated on a lotus emerging from the navel of the reclining Vishnu. It is from this depiction of Brahma that the Padmanabhaswamy Temple derives its name.



Insufferable dangers
may also be lurking
for those who dare
to open the temple's
myserious sealed door

Whilst it is unclear when the Padmanabhaswamy Temple was first built, references to this holy site can be found in ancient Tamil literature as early as the sixth century AD. A ninth-century poet-saint named Nammalwar wrote that the temple and the city had walls built entirely of pure gold. Events from later centuries have been better recorded and we are aware today that several important renovations were made to the temple during the 18th century. Moreover, the day-to-day history of the temple was recorded on palm leaves between the 14th and 17th centuries.

THE MYSTERY OF VAULT B

The most intriguing aspect of the Padmanabhaswamy Temple, however, is the sealed door that leads to Vault B. There are five similar vaults in the temple, however, those have already been opened in the past. Vault B has been left untouched. The other vaults of the temple functioned as repositories for the temple's treasures, and it is commonly speculated that Vault B serves the same purpose.

Unlike the other secret chambers, however, no one has dared to open Vault B. The massive door of this unopened vault is marked by the figures of two enormous cobras. For some, this is interpreted as an omen that disaster would befall anyone who dares to open the vault. Over the years, numerous legends have grown around this mysterious vault, causing fact and fiction to be jumbled up.

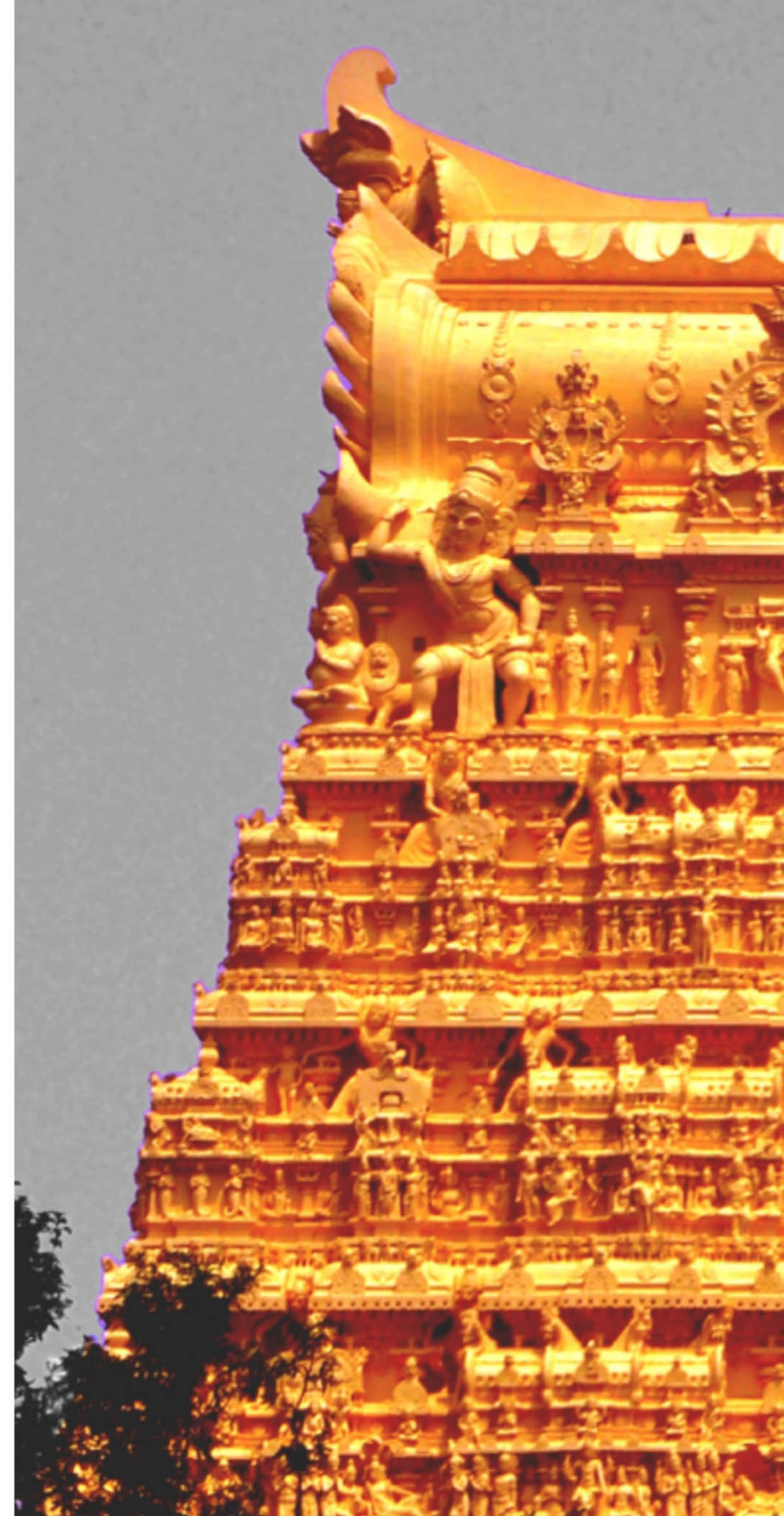
One of the legends surrounding Vault B is that it is impossible at present to open its door. It has been claimed that the door of the vault is magically sealed by

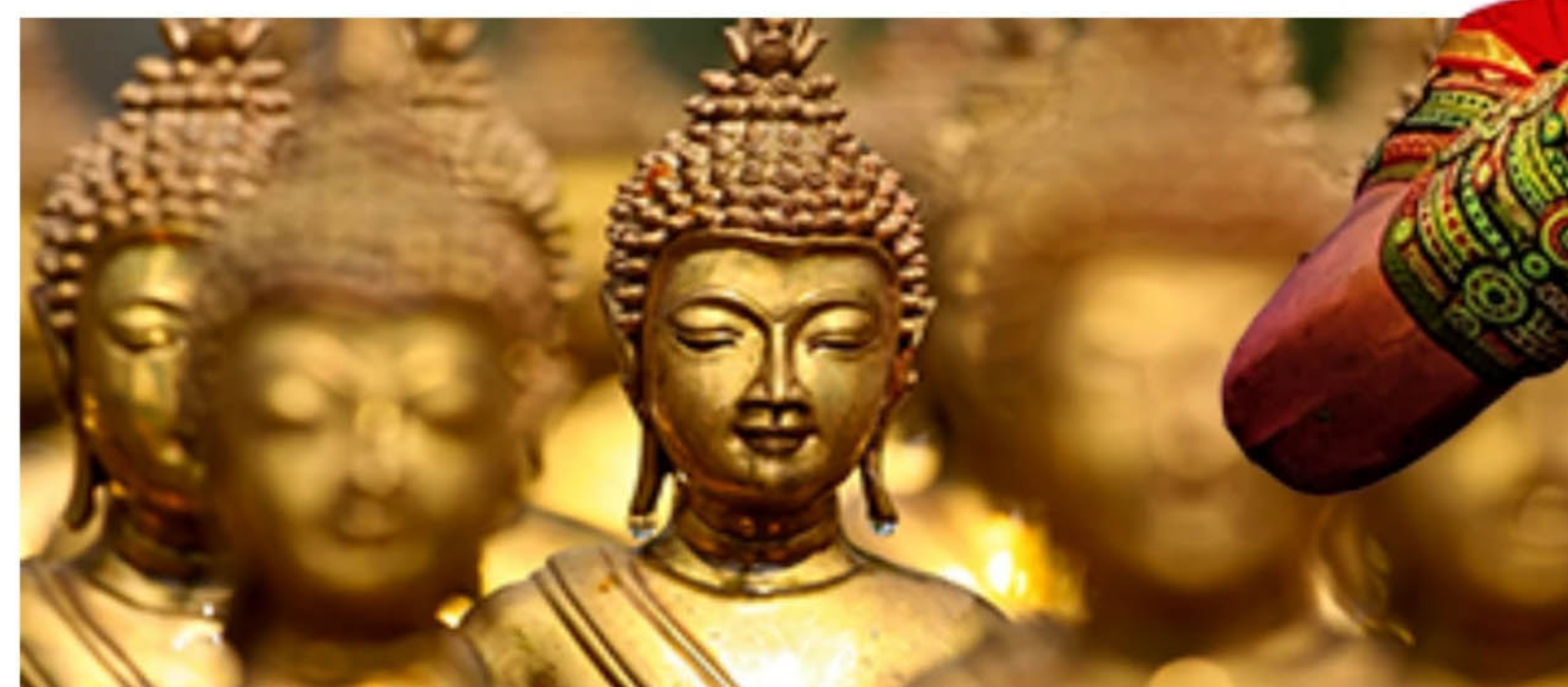
sound waves from a secret chant that is now lost. In addition, it is claimed that only a holy man with the knowledge of this chant would be capable of opening the vault's door.

Another story about Vault B comes from Emily Gilchrist Hatch's 1933 travel guide, *Travancore: A Guide Book for the Visitor*. Hatch recounts that in 1908, a group of people had tried to enter Vault B. They discovered, however, that the area was infested by cobras and fled for their lives. There are also numerous stories concerning the contents of the vault, with most people speculating that a vast amount of wealth lies within it. Some also believe that the vault should not be opened, lest the world be struck by a catastrophe that would bring an end to our very existence.

In spite of these stories, the temple records presented to Vinod Rai, the 11th Comptroller and Auditor General of India, indicated that Vault B has indeed been opened before – seven times in fact in recent history (twice in 1990 and another five times in 2002). The Travancore Royal Family, who are the custodians of the temple, however, pointed out that on those occasions, only the antechamber of the vault was opened, whilst the main chamber is still untouched.

Some continue to support the view that the last door of the vault should not be opened. Others, however, are of the opinion that Vault B should be entered so that its treasures may be audited and properly cataloged to prevent theft and loss of assets. ■





Sculpture of
Pandavas at
the temple
during
Painkuni
Festival





ALICIA
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Alicia is a researcher, editor, and writer with Ancient Origins. She's a lifelong learner and has worked in education, tourism, and anthropology. Traveling throughout Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador, Alicia has increased her knowledge of Pre-Colombian sites as well as life in modern Andean cultures.

The

humble cabbage roll: a filling, comfort food with a distinctive taste and budget-stretching abilities.

Holishkes may be Jewish in origin, but the principle behind them is found across ethnicities – use an abundant of cheap

vegetable, save on meat by adding rice, and cook it in something tasty to provide the family with a hearty, healthy meal.

Some Jewish historians believe that holishkes, which are known by many other names across Eastern Europe, were a favored dish of Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jews as far back as 1500 years ago. However, their earliest origins are probably the Middle East as legends say stuffed grape leaves, for example, were first eaten by Alexander the Great's soldiers when meat supplies were low. The notion later spread and was transformed to suit the palates of Eastern Europe as trade routes developed and people migrated.

Although they can be savored all year round, holishkes are traditionally eaten on the Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot



Faith Accompanies Hearty, Humble Cabbage Rolls

or Simchat Torah (literally “Celebration of the Torah”). Many even say that the dish suits the celebration perfectly because when two holishkes are put beside each other, they form the shape of the Torah (two scrolls).

These days, we can find the stuffed cabbage leaves with numerous names and various ingredients. Bulgarians, for example, call them sarmi and make them with veal, pork, finely chopped mint, sweet paprika, and yogurt. Romanians prefer the meat to be pork and add dill inside and bacon on top. Ukrainians garnish their cabbage rolls with sauerkraut and serve them with perogies, while Russians call them “little pigeons” and add a





dollop of sour cream.

But the Jewish version of stuffed cabbage has a mild sweet-and-sour flavor thanks to the tomatoes, vinegar, and sugar - which suits most modern palates over the more traditional option of diced apples or apricots, or a generous sprinkling of raisins inside the rice and meat mix (any of which could be used as a substitute for the sweetness of sugar or to change up the flavors). Orange or lemon juice could also be swapped in for vinegar (in the same quantity).

Although it may take some time to prepare and cook, cabbage is easier to work with than you might think. After you cook it to make



the leaves pliable, you simply shave off the thick part so its leaves will roll more easily.

Until the early 18th century, cabbage was the primary vegetable available to Ashkenazi Jews. Potatoes came next. Jewish immigrants brought their favorite holishke recipes with them across the pond to America when they immigrated there as well. Ingredients have changed to include the easier option of canned tomato sauce, for example, as new products became readily available. ■

Cabbages are one of the world's oldest vegetables, having been consumed and cultivated for thousands of years across multiple continents. In their earliest form, they were loose bunches of leaves, similar to kale, but now there are over 500 varieties. The smooth, light green cabbage we see in most of our grocery stores and use in this recipe originated in Germany during the mid-12th century.

Recipe on next page

A Holishkes 'How-To'

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large head of cabbage
- 1 1/2 pounds beef, ground
- 1/2 cup rice, raw
- 1 small onion, grated
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons salt, divided
- 3/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper, divided
- 1 large onion, sliced into thin half-moons
- 1 cup cooked and pureed tomatoes (or use 15-16 oz canned tomato sauce)
- 3 cups diced tomatoes (or two 28 oz cans)
- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar, gently packed
- 1/4 cup raisins (optional)

METHOD

Boil a big pot of water, large enough to submerge a whole head of cabbage. Cut the core out of the cabbage. When the water is at a rolling boil, add the cabbage and cook, covered, for about 10 minutes. Occasionally roll the cabbage around so each side is under water as it cooks.

Once it is done, gently lift the cabbage into a colander or strainer set in a bowl. Pour cool water over the cabbage. When it is cool enough to handle, separate the leaves. If inner leaves are not pliable, put what is left of the cabbage back into boiling water for a few more minutes.

Shave off the thickest part of each leaf, near where the leaf had been attached to the core.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.



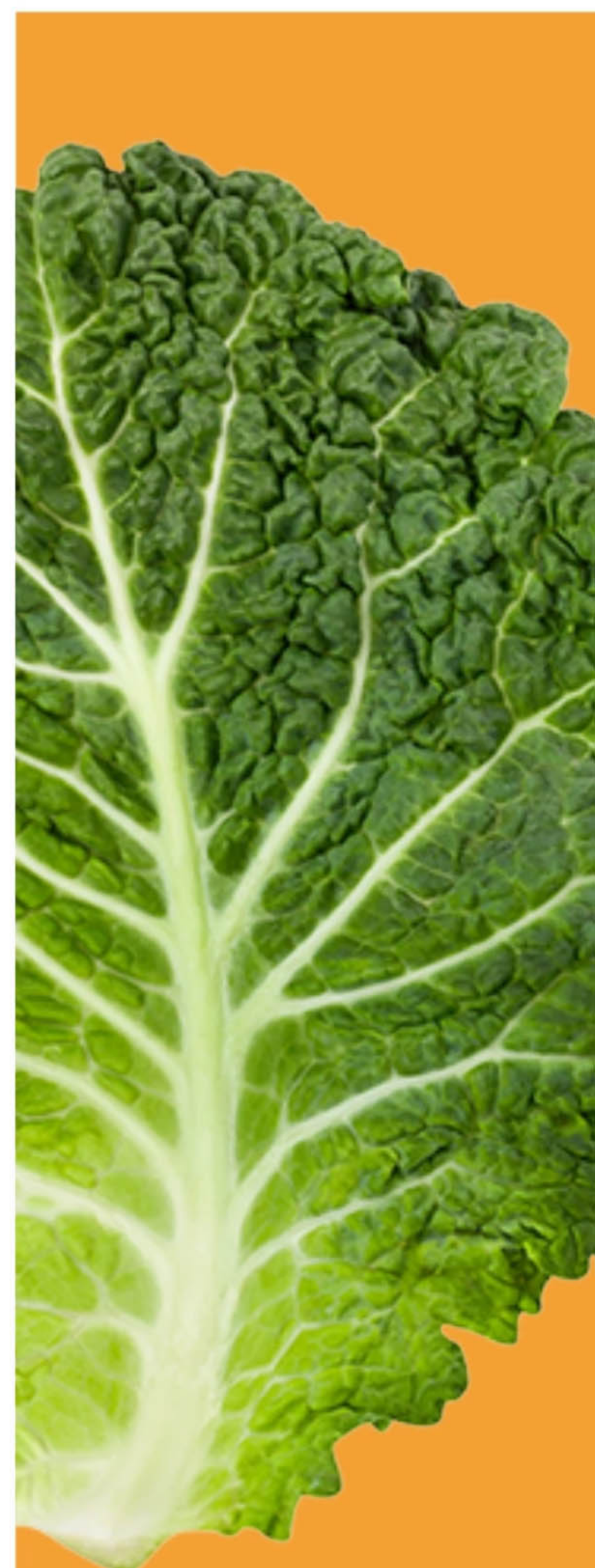
Mix the rice, grated onion, eggs, (raisins, if you'll be using them), 1 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper in a medium bowl. Add the beef and combine all the ingredients with your hands. Make small meatballs. Set them aside on a plate.

Loosely wrap each meatball in a cabbage leaf and place seam side down on a platter. Arrange the leftover leaves on the bottom of 1 or 2 heavy baking dishes. Move the cabbage rolls into the dish(es), making sure to put the seam side down. Layer with about half of the thin onion slices.

Once all the cabbage rolls are in the dish(es), add the diced tomatoes and their juice, the tomato puree or sauce, the vinegar, and the remaining teaspoon of salt and 1/2 teaspoon of pepper. You can either mix the ingredients in the baking dish or stir them in a bowl first. Top with the remaining onions.

Sprinkle on the brown sugar and gently mix it in.

Bake, covered for 1 hour then 1 & 1/2 - 2 hours uncovered. ■





1



2

3



Notes

- If you lift the cooked head of cabbage out of the pot (instead of pouring out all the water after the cabbage cooks) you'll still have the hot water left if it turns out that the inner leaves are not yet cooked and need to be re-submerged.
- Don't worry if a cabbage leaf tears. You can use it to line the baking dish(es) or keep it on the bottom side of the roll in the dish. Keeping the meat and rice balls loosely formed and loosely wrapped is important so that the rice has space to expand inside the meatballs and the meatballs themselves can expand in the cabbage rolls. That's why you keep the meatballs a little bigger than the size of a golfball.
- When reheating any leftovers, add a bit more tomato sauce, juice, or other liquid if the rolls have absorbed most of the liquid.



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